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Barak tells 'groveling' party to take 'political Viagra'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak yesterday blasted the party initiative to give Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a parliamentary "safety net" that would allow him to pursue a redeployment agreement, describing Labor as "a groveling poodle" in need of "a political Viagra pill."

Under the plan, Labor would promise not to try to topple the government for four months, to give Netanyahu a chance to arrive at and implement a redeployment

agreement. Barak was angered at the desire of the safety-net promoters to promise Netanyahu any breathing space in advance.

"Labor has turned itself into a political and public joke," Barak said at a stormy faction meeting, which ended with a decision to put off the decision regarding a safety net until Netanyahu is close to reaching an agreement on the pullback.

MK Shimon Peres, who initiated the safety-net plan, was in Gaza meeting Palestinian Authority

leader Yasser Arafat and did not attend the meeting.

"Labor appears like a limp party which has lost the will to live and needs a political Viagra to lead the state," Barak said.

He called the safety-net plan "a slippery political trick." "Whoever reaches national unity in this way — like some groveling, crawling poodle begging for tidbits — will look like a fig leaf hanging on the nakedness of this government," Barak said.

He said what Labor was doing "is political madness and political

suicide."

The initiative was headed by MK Rafi Edri, who signed a num-

Labor MKs enable passage of Golan bill, Page 3

ber of faction members on a letter urging the party to back Netanyahu for four months. Among the signatories were Peres, Uzi Baram, Yossi Beilin, Yael

Dayan, Nissim Zivili, Sallah Tarif, Nawaf Massalha and Rafi Elul.

Peres defended the move, saying peace is more important than personal or partisan issues. He said Labor was always in favor of the pullback, and it was vitally important to counterbalance the 10 right-wing MKs threatening to topple Netanyahu if he implements the pullback.

"In my view, endangering the pullback is a fatal blow to the state. We're providing a backing for peace, not for Netanyahu. Peace is the issue, not Labor. It's

legitimate to ask to discuss a safety net."

He said Labor's backing is intended to guarantee Netanyahu implements the pullback, and would be revoked if, for example, Netanyahu begins building on Har Homa.

MK Dalia Itzik said, however, "Peres is making a big mistake. I know he's very concerned for the peace process, he's thinking of what's best for the country and our children. But Netanyahu is deceiving him, as he's deceiving his colleagues."

About the differences in Labor, Itzik said "Everytime Barak takes off, someone from within the party shoots him down."

She added that as far as a unity government is concerned, Peres was quite isolated in the faction.

MK Avraham Shohat said Peres' move "is political idiocy, a fatal error, a radical and worrying lack of judgment. Labor is wearing a sack on its head and lets Netanyahu tie its hands behind its back."

See VIAGRA, Page 2

Police: Indict 5 officials in J'lem school tragedy

By AMY KLEIN and ILM

Jerusalem police recommended yesterday that three Education Ministry officials and two workers from the Marmant Company be indicted for negligently causing the death of nine-year-old Amelia Cohen, who fell out of a classroom window last month.

The Education Ministry committee appointed to investigate the tragedy also submitted a report last night recommending clarifying safety regulations and dividing responsibilities among safety personnel.

Police recommended that Noah Rahmawati, director of the ministry's safety department, be indicted for instructing Marmant workers not to assess the safety of windows more than 120 centimeters above floor level, in contravention of the ministry's regulations.

Marmant is the safety advising company the ministry uses.

David Boichut, assistant director-general in the Jerusalem Municipality's education authority, also should be indicted, police recommended. According to police findings, he did not instruct his workers to carry out an inspection of the schools and he did not appoint someone to be responsible for safety when he was advised to do so. When he finally did make such an appointment, the person was not suitable for the job, police say.

They also recommended that Richard Dorn, director of the maintenance department in the authority, be indicted.

The police also faulted Marmant for not doing its job, and specifically cited Pabel Lehrman, its Jerusalem director, for not having him climb to the window from which Cohen fell. Police also recommended that a second Marmant employee be indicted.

See INDICT, Page 2

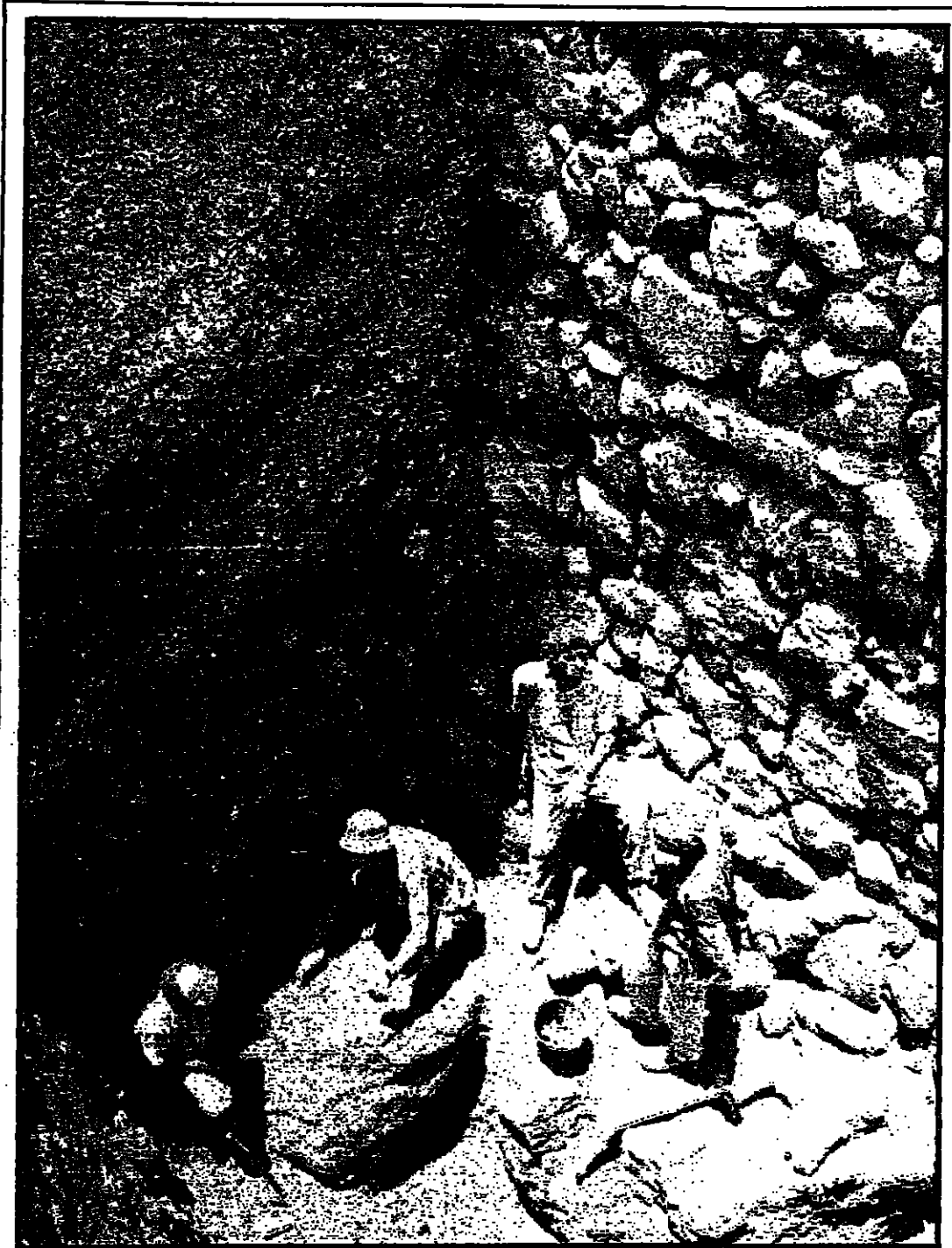
IDF general critically injured in car crash

Brig Gen. Eli Amitai, who survived numerous attacks while serving as an IDF commander in Lebanon, was critically injured in a car crash yesterday in the West Bank.

The 55-year-old was crushed head-on with another car on the highway between Modi'in and Beit Horon, east of the village of Khadma. Another person was moderately injured and two were lightly hurt. It was not immediately clear how the collision occurred.

Amitai had many near-misses while serving as commander of the IDF's Lebanon unit in his two-year tour of duty.

Archie O'Sullivan



Jerusalem archeological finds

Israel Antiquities Authority employees work yesterday in the City of David uncovering a fortified wall from the Middle Bronze Period in an area believed to have been outside the city's defenses. Fresh archeological discoveries near the Gihon Spring, ancient Jerusalem's principle water source, show that the sophisticated water system heretofore attributed to the conquering Israelites pre-dated them by eight centuries and was even more sophisticated than imagined. Story, Page 4

(Brian Hendler)

New price-labeling rules take effect today

By NINA GILBERT

The new price-labeling regulations which take effect today are the start of a consumer revolution in the country, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday.

According to the regulations, stores must affix prices on all products except for a few exceptions, including unpackaged foods. In those cases, prices must be clearly displayed above or below the objects.

All milk products, even those under price supervision, must now have prices on them, except for bagged or long-life milk.

Other products still exempt are small items, such as nails sold in boxes; animals, plants, and products sold by weight.

Products on sale for less than 35 days must have the original and sale price on a sign next to the product.

Death toll rises to 129 in US heat wave

By BRIAN BERGSTEIN

NEW YORK (AP) — A sign at a Houston car wash might say it best: "Who put Viagra in the thermometer?"

Summer is dishing out its worst, clenching the US with staggering heat and humidity that continued yesterday in much of the country.

With at least 126 heat-related deaths in seven states, people scrambled for protection.

"We've distributed about 80 fans so far and I've got almost 100 people on the waiting list," said Lillian Jackson, a coordinator for the North City Congress senior center in Philadelphia, where temperatures have risen as high as 37 degrees.

As the hot, humid weather arrived in the Northeast, Philadelphia officials reported the city's first heat-related death of the summer, a 61-year-old woman found in her home on Tuesday.

But cooler air was pushing across the northern Plains and Great Lakes, and the line where that air collided with the hot, humid atmos-

phere to the south was marked by strong thunderstorms yesterday that stretched from Nebraska to New England.

Farther south, however, Dallas was expected to top 37 for the 17th day in a row. At least 86 deaths in Texas, including 23 in Dallas, have been blamed on the heat.

In Louisiana, where authorities attribute at least 26 deaths to the heat, the federal government will likely declare a drought disaster in every area where cash crops grow, state Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odum said.

There have been 13 heat-related deaths in Oklahoma, where several towns were having trouble keeping up with the demand for water.

That didn't faze Jim Johnson, a St. Louis bricklayer who has spent 35 years on outdoor jobs and worked through the midday heat wearing faded blue jeans and sporting a full beard.

"People are blowing it out of proportion. People are sissies," he said. "If you're used to air conditioning, it's bad. But for people like me, we're used to it."

Jordan's Hassan mediates in talks

Mordechai calls for US intervention; meeting with Abbas likely today

By JAY BUSHINSKY, LIAT COLLINS and STEVE RODAN

The intervention of Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan to prevent the total collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian talks enabled Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to announce that he would be meeting Palestinian Authority Deputy Chairman Mahmoud Abbas today.

"The defense minister received a message that the Palestinians are interested in renewing contacts," Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said. "We expect that there will be a meeting today."

However, Abbas, upon returning from Amman last night, denied that the talks would resume.

"We have not agreed on holding further meetings with Mordechai after the Palestinian leadership decided to stop negotiations," he told Reuters.

This formulation could signal disagreement at the highest level of the Palestinian leadership about whether to proceed with the peace process at this stage and under the current circumstances.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, asked whether he had called for a halt in the negotiations, replied, "Approximately."

Hassan's skillful diplomacy achieved an objective sought by

the US but which the State Department preferred to leave in his hands, rather than become directly involved in a potentially dangerous dispute between the two sides.

A concurrent attempt by Mordechai to bring US special envoy Dennis Ross back to the Middle East in the belief that he could bridge the chasm between him and Abbas was rebuffed by US diplomats.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur attributed the Jordanians' decisive involvement to the talks conducted earlier this week in Jerusalem by Jordanian Foreign Minister Jawad Anani with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Since Anani's visit and the briefing he received from the prime minister, Jordan has been fulfilling a constructive role," Bentsur said.

Mordechai was unequivocal in his belief that Ross could rescue the fledgling peace effort, resuscitated Sunday at the behest of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"What is necessary now is for US negotiator Dennis Ross to arrive in the area and to complete the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel," Mordechai said.

A State Department official said he was not aware that Ross had any plans to visit the Middle East.

"We are in touch with both parties on a very regular basis but there's not going to be a big American initiative at this stage," the official told Reuters.

However, a different senior US official said the US is leaning toward sending Ross to the region. However, this official did not think the negotiations are at an advanced enough stage for Ross to help clinch an agreement.

"Personally, I think that it's a ploy by Netanyahu to drag out the negotiations and give the impression that there's progress," the official said.

Mordechai was insistent on the need for American intervention.

"What it needs is that the highest levels of the Palestinian and Israeli sides will have a meeting to conclude the subjects that we are discussing now. It is possible. And if the US will really take part now in continuing its initiative, will make a little bit more effort so we can reach an agreement."

Mordechai said security remains one of the last issues in dispute. On other issues, he said, Israel and the Palestinians are very close.

See HASSAN, Page 2

Government not worried over Jordanian stability

Hussein undergoing tests for lymphoma

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

King Hussein's admission that he's probably suffering from lymphoma was met yesterday with wishes for recovery from regional leaders and speculation on the future of the Hashemite kingdom.

Besides expressing hope that Hussein would be able to overcome cancer, Israeli leaders said yesterday they believe Jordan's sta-

A stable Jordan, Page 3

bility is not endangered by his illness, citing the competence Jordanian security forces have demonstrated in quashing extremism and disorder.

These qualities came into focus as government officials contemplated the political consequences of the 62-year-old monarch's medical condition and considered whether his prospective successors would be able to govern effectively.

That Crown Prince Hassan, who holds the royal status of regent, was able to wield the requisite influence to bring the Israeli and Palestinian delegations back to the negotiating



Book salesman Mustafa Barhoum prays in downtown Amman yesterday for the recovery of Jordan's King Hussein who disclosed he may be suffering from lymphoma. (Reuters)

table last night was interpreted as evidence of his political acumen and skill.

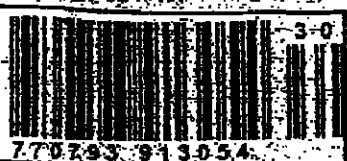
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his overriding hope is that Hussein's "spiritual and physical powers" will enable him to achieve a speedy and thorough recovery.

Netanyahu's Communications

Director David Bar-Ilan described Hussein as "a friend of Israel and a friend of peace."

In a radio interview broadcast shortly after Hussein's illness was made public, Netanyahu said he regrets the monarch is suffering and hopes he will recover.

See HUSSEIN, Page 2



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NEWS

in brief

Two killed in traffic accident

Two people were killed and four others were lightly injured yesterday when a commercial vehicle swerved out of its lane and into oncoming traffic, hitting a car head-on. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

The accident, which occurred on the road connecting Megiddo and Yokne'am, caused serious traffic jams throughout the area.

Court wants answer on citizenship revocation

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the Interior Ministry to reconsider its policy of forcing Israeli Arab women who marry Palestinians and move to the administered territories to give up their Israeli citizenship.

The court gave the Interior Ministry 90 days to respond. The petition was filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel on behalf of seven women who lost their citizenship in this way, and have since divorced their husbands and returned to Israel.

The women are currently living here illegally. They are not entitled to National Insurance Institute benefits or health insurance, and their children cannot go to school because they do not have identity cards.

Security in Old City to be increased

After a series of stabbings inside Jerusalem's Old City, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced yesterday that the government would beef up police and security in the area.

A statement from Netanyahu's office said the government has allocated NIS 20 million to meet the security needs of the Old City's residents and the thousands of tourists who visit the area each year.

Air Force strikes Hizbullah targets

IAP fighter jets attacked Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon yesterday, a day after a South Lebanon Army militiaman was killed by a roadside charge.

Reports from Lebanon said a pair of warplanes struck at the hills between the towns of Mashgura and Ein el-Tineh in the western Bekaa Valley.

They fired a total of six air-to-surface missiles, Lebanese officials said. There were no reports of casualties in the 1:30 p.m. attack.

The IDF said its jets attacked terrorists targets, that the pilots reported accurate hits and that all planes returned safely to base.

Habad rabbis warn PM against redeployment

Habad rabbis yesterday warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that if he implemented a redeployment, the movement would begin public protests.

Speaking at a convention of Habad rabbis from all over the country, the rabbi of Kfar Habad, Rabbi Mordechai Ashkenazi, said it would be better for Netanyahu to resign than to endanger the "nation living in Zion."

A telegram to this effect was sent to Netanyahu yesterday in the name of all Habad rabbis.

Police nab car thief, but colleague escapes

Detectives from the Mesubim police station captured a suspected car thief after a chase yesterday. A second suspect escaped.

According to reports, after police set up a roadblock in Neve Monson, officers signalled to a private car to pull over. Instead the driver veered onto a sidewalk and drove wildly towards one of the policemen. The policemen fired a number of shots in the air and at the wheels. The driver then lost control of the car and struck a tree.

Two people got out of the car; police succeeded in catching one of them.

Palestinians get 'embassy' in Britain

By JAY BUSHINSKY and DOUGLAS DAVIS

The British government raised the diplomatic rank of the Palestinian mission to the Court of St. James to that of "Palestinian General Delegation," thereby affording it virtually the same status enjoyed by a bona fide embassy, an official said yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Derek Fatchett was described as the driving force behind this move, which took Israeli diplomats by surprise.

A European diplomatic source attributed Fatchett's initiative to a desire to be "in line with the European Union's approach" to the Palestine Liberation Organization's representatives.

"It's not really such a big deal," he said.

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that it is concerned about the upgrade and instructed the Israeli Embassy in London to ascertain all the pertinent details.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday launched a vigorous attack on the European Union over its threats to exclude Israeli goods made across the Green Line from the 1995 economic accord between the EU and Israel.

In an interview with London's *Daily Telegraph*, Netanyahu said it would be unwise for France to attempt to drag the EU into an anti-Israel crusade.

He said that Israel's gross domestic product is fast approaching 40 percent of the combined GDP of the 22 Arab states, and within 15 years it would be equivalent to 80%.

"Israel's economy will be almost equal

to the economic potential of the entire Arab world," he said. "I think people, including Europe, need to reevaluate its assessments of where its interests lie."

Sanctions against Israel, he continued, would not work, "not just because we have a robust economy. It's also because of the sheer injustice and blatant unfairness of a democratic country that is being pressed by other democratic countries to do something that endangers its security."

Netanyahu said he did not think that Washington, impatient with Israel over the peace process, might "wink" at the specter of the EU flexing its muscles in this way.

"You can't wink in the international community without everyone knowing," he said. "I don't think America is about to send such a message, winking or otherwise."

On the question of whether violence might follow further redeployments, he said that "if the withdrawals are irresponsible and bring us more or less the indefensible 1967 boundaries, the answer is an unqualified yes."

Commenting editorially, the paper noted: "For too long, EU intervention in the Middle East has been motivated by *folie de grandeur* and resentment of American 'hegemony.' The effect has been both to worsen relations with Israel and to encourage a stiffening of Palestinian demands."

The late Moshe Dayan once said that whereas the Soviet Union held the key to peace in the Middle East, America held the key to peace. If he were alive today, he might say that the EU is capable of throwing only a spanner in the works.

Yahav: Naval base robbed before failed commando mission

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Yona Yahav (Labor) has filed a parliamentary question to the defense minister asking about the possible connection between an apparent break-in on a naval base and the failed mission in which 12 commandos were killed a few days later at the beginning of last September.

"I have learned that the offices of a naval base were broken into and documents stolen," Yahav said.

"The incident, which was apparently carried out against a background of drug use and the need of money to finance it, took place shortly before the commando action in Lebanon, which as you know failed [causing] the commandos to lose their lives. I have learned that the documents have still not been recovered," he said.

Yahav asked Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai whether the burglary had been investigated and whether a link had been found between the theft and the way the commando operation was carried out. He also asked whether new security measures had been taken since the break-in and whether those responsible had been brought to justice.

"If it has been found that there is no connection between the theft and the action, have the families of the fallen been informed?" Yahav asked.

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said last night that Mordechai will reply personally to Yahav, adding that his reply was classified.

The IDF Spokesman said the entire matter is classified and refused to comment on it.



Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei answers a reporter's questions during a Capitol Hill news conference yesterday, as House Speaker Newt Gingrich looks on. The press conference followed the first meeting between Palestinian legislators and US lawmakers.

PA legislators make first visit to Congress

By DONNA ABU-NASR

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the first such meeting on Capitol Hill, Palestinian legislators sat down with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other US lawmakers yesterday, hoping the talks would lead to closer ties with a staunchly pro-Israel Congress.

Gingrich said the Palestinians' visit to the US, which he sponsored, "is very important and very useful."

"We are mutually concerned about getting the peace process to continue to move forward," Gingrich told reporters after the 50-minute meeting. "We also share a belief that prosperity is a key to long-term peace."

Gingrich invited the Palestinians in May, when he visited Israel, to

come to the US and meet with congressional leaders and State Department officials.

Just before leaving on that trip, Gingrich denounced Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as "the agent for the Palestinians" for trying to persuade Israel to redeploy on the West Bank.

Ahmed Qurei, head of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said yesterday the Palestinians have "much expectation and hope about the relationship that will start with this House."

It was the first time Palestinian lawmakers have been invited to Capitol Hill since the PLC was elected in January 1996. The Palestinians have long complained that US lawmakers are not hearing both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We hope to open a continuing relationship with Congress so it can get its ideas about the Palestinians directly from the Palestinians and not through Israel or the pro-Israel lobby in the United States," lawmaker Ziad Abu Amr said.

Qurei, also speaking before the meeting, said the delegations "will not ask Congress to discard a friend it has chosen [Israel], but we will ask the Congress to understand our cause and to try to make a new friend."

At the news conference, Gingrich listed several steps that Congress will take to help propel the stalled Middle East peace talks forward and contribute to regional

stability. The Speaker plans to send a delegation to the PA after November's congressional elections to spend some time with Palestinian officials.

And if the Israeli-Palestinian talks get back on track, he plans to host a joint legislative meeting in the US and form an internship program with the PA. Israel and the two Arab countries that have made peace with Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

"We are going to do all we can to facilitate the peace process in a positive way," Gingrich said. "In the long run, the security of Israel is best sustained by having peaceful neighbors who are prosperous."

Jury weighs fate of suspects in Brooklyn subway bomb plot

NEW YORK (AP) — The case of two Palestinians charged with conspiring to bomb crowded Brooklyn subway station headed to a federal jury despite a defense lawyer's plea that their fates be considered separately.

Gazi Abu Mezer, 24, and Lafi Khalil, 23, were both wounded in a pre-dawn police raid on their Brooklyn apartment last July 31, after a third occupant tipped authorities to the suicide bombing, set to occur later that day.

Police seized a pipe bomb that FBI experts said could have caused many casualties in the confined space of a subway train or station.

US District Judge Reena Raggi instructed the jury and it began its deliberations yesterday.

The brash, demonstrative Abu Mezer, 24, hurt his case by insisting on testifying against his lawyers' wishes, admitting he made the bomb — but didn't intend to set it off.

Prosecutors said the roommates worked together in a scheme to win freedom for six Arabs militants imprisoned in the US and Israel.

Bruce McIntyre, lawyer for Khalil, said in his closing argument that his client's fate should be evaluated separately from Abu

Mezer's, because there was no physical evidence linking his client to the bomb and no eyewitness who identified him as having helped purchase components in North Carolina.

McIntyre said Khalil's actions were "not consistent with a suicide bomber or someone who's trying to get away with a crime."

Assistant US Attorney John Curran told the jury in his closing argument that the two defendants were partners in an avowed plot to "burn the Jews" by bombing a subway line serving Borough Park, a heavily Jewish Brooklyn neighborhood.

"Whenever anything critical occurred, Lafi

Khalil and Gazi Abu Mezer were together. That's powerful evidence of a conspiracy — not a coincidence," Curran said.

Abu Mezer's defense attorney Michael Padden said there wasn't enough solid evidence to prove that either defendant was involved.

"This case is in so many ways a farce ... like a plot in a Woody Allen movie," he said.

He urged jurors not to be "swept up in all kinds of feelings about what we've heard here about terrorism, about hatred, about world politics."

The pair's trial began July 6 in Brooklyn Federal Court.

HASSAN

Continued from Page 1

"I think if the US takes part, we can move forward," he said.

Arafat was adamant earlier in the day that direct talks with Israel were finished, saying this week's round of negotiations failed to produce any results.

Arafat, speaking hours after his decision was endorsed by the Palestinian leadership, informed former prime minister Shimon Peres of the suspension of talks during a meeting in Gaza.

The two men discussed the proposals submitted by Israeli negotiators during the three sessions with the Palestinian.

Later, Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh blamed Israel for the

failed talks.

"The talks came to a deadlock because of the insistence of Israel to refuse to accept the US initiative," he said. "The Israeli side did not present any new ideas."

PA officials said Israel did not fulfill their basic demand to continue the talks: an Israeli government acceptance of the US proposal to hand over 13.1 percent of the West Bank to full Palestinian control.

They said the Israelis proposed creating a new "nature reserve" area that would be off-limits to Palestinian or Israeli construction.

Such a proposal, the officials said, constituted an Israeli attempt to change the US plan.

"We won't accept any attempt to change what already has been agreed upon," PA chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said.

PA officials said they expected a new shuttle effort by Ross.

Arafat tossed the Israeli invitation to Ross to return to the region as "an attempt to return the issue to the Americans, which we are not against."

Hillel Kautler contributed to this report.

INDICT

Continued from Page 1

Avraham Cohen, the father of Anelia, was displeased with the results of the investigation. He heard of the findings after returning from the cemetery, where he marked the end of the 30-day mourning period for his daughter.

"These people should not be charged with [causing] death by negligence because they were aware of the dangers in the school," he said. "They should have been charged with manslaughter."

VIAGRA

Continued from Page 1

MK Eli Goldschmidt said "we all know ways to trip up our leaders; it's a genetic self-destructive motif."

Labor's bickering over the safety net drew fire and mocking

remarks from both the opposition and coalition.

One Likud MK observed mockingly that "Arafat is breaking up the talks and Labor's MKs are laying themselves on the fence to provide Netanyahu with backing for a pullback."

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said "it's crime and pun-

ishment. Whoever takes on the haredim breaks his political neck. This is what happened to Barak. He's destroyed his leadership, split Labor and ruined his camp. He is no longer the leader of this camp."

Meretz came out sharply against Labor, which it accused of being ineffective as opposition.

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THURSDAY IN THE POST

The Weekender - book reviews, what to do, where to go, recipes and restaurants, film, theater, chess, bridge and fashion

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Weizmann Institute of Science deeply mourns the passing of

Prof. Sir JAMES LIGHTHILL

Governor Emeritus of its Board of Governors and recipient of the Institute's Ph.D. Honoris Causa

and extends profound condolences to his wife, Lady Nancy Lighthill, and all the family.

Golan bill passes 67-32

By LIAT COLLINS

The preliminary reading of the so-called Golan Heights bill passed in the Knesset yesterday by 67 to 32, with one abstention (Marina Solodkin, Yisrael Ba'aliya).

The bill would require an absolute Knesset majority of at least 61 MKs and a public referendum majority to approve any territorial concessions or changes in status. Despite its nickname, the bill refers to any area in which Israeli law is in force.

The bill was referred to the Knesset Law Committee to be prepared for the further three readings. The bill, proposed by Third Way whip Yehuda Harel, won fairly broad support with 14 Labor MKs, including party leader Ehud Barak, voting in favor and nine Labor MKs voting against.

Among the supporters were MKs from the Likud, Geshet, Tsomet, Yisrael Ba'aliya, Moledet, Shas and the National Religious Party, as well as the Labor MKs.

United Torah Judaism MKs voted against it. MK Moshe Gafni (UTJ) said his party "favored peace and this bill would be a constraint." He denied that the vote was partially motivated by a desire to get back at the Third Way for supporting Barak's bill on conscripting yeshiva students and said, "That we could vote against the Third Way was only an added pleasure."

MK Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya) was the only other coalition MK to vote against the bill. "The timing is not right," Weinberg explained.

Harel called the bill: "The ultimate in democracy, involving both the people and the Knesset and the government."

Science Minister Silvan Shalom, responding to the bill on the government's behalf, said the government supported the bill "as it would bring about a broad national consensus."

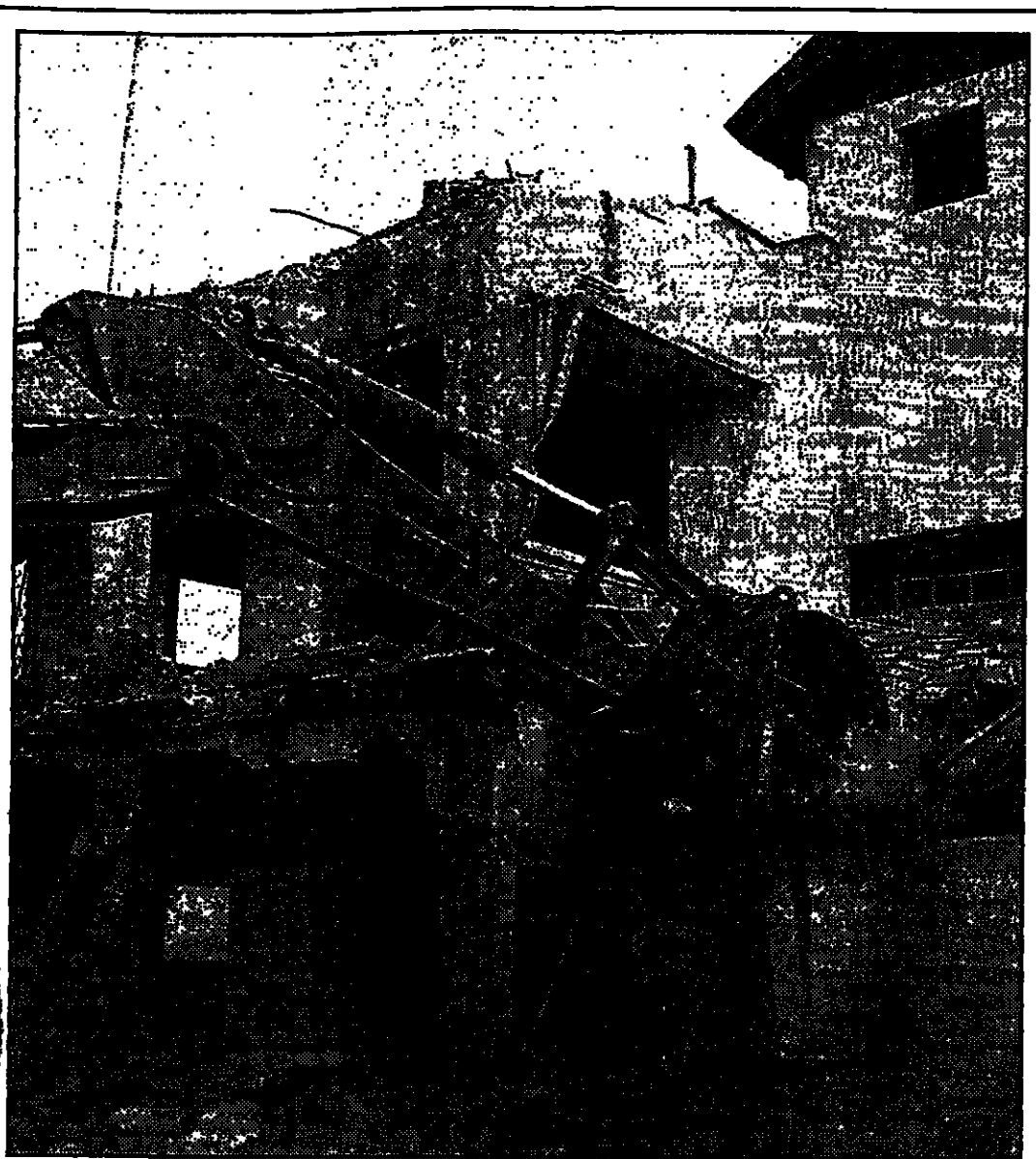
The debate itself passed quickly and fairly quietly with minimal heckling, most of it from MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) who called out: "The Golan will be returned because it's part of Syria."

After the results of the vote became apparent, and particularly the scope of Labor support, there was some argument between those Labor MKs who voted against, including Yael Dayan, and those who supported it, including Micha Goldmann.

A bill by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg which passed preliminary reading last year and would require a Knesset majority of at least 80 MKs and a plebiscite majority of at least half of all eligible voters is still buried in the Knesset Law Committee. The government opposed that bill.

Meanwhile, MK Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way) yesterday submitted a bill which he said is aimed at strengthening Jerusalem. The bill would encourage investment by granting tax breaks and loans, allocate more land for housing projects, and give housing loans to Hebrew University students.

Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.



An end to hostilities?

Houses that belonged to the Karaje clan are demolished in the village of Juarish, near Ramle yesterday. The houses, which were empty, were thrown down as part of a separation agreement reached between the Karaje and Jarushi clans, after ongoing tension between them exploded this year in violent conflicts that caused several deaths. Under the agreement, the Karaje families were moved to Hadera and Taiba.

(Text: him; Photo: Ariel Jerozolimski)

NEWSLINE

Peretz is head of the oncology department at Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kere, Jerusalem.

What is King Hussein suffering from?

King Hussein had surgery which supposedly removed cancer from his kidneys years ago. Until recently there had been no signs of recurrence.

Now he may have a disease in his lymph nodes. There are several possibilities of what he might be suffering from:

1) Metastasis - A tumor that grows from the lymph node that can spread anywhere in the body. This may have originated from the cancer in his kidney, but this is a remote possibility.

2) Lymphoma - a form of cancer that originates in the lymph nodes. This disease can strike in any age group.

As a lymph node grows, it may press other organs which in turn causes other symptoms. For example, it can press on blood vessels causing obstruction of the vessels. It can press on the urinary tract causing kidney problems or it can press in the neck causing swelling in the neck and face.

It can also cause B-symptoms such as fever, fatigue, and lack of appetite, which derive from the tumor's growth and perhaps because of excretions caused by the tumor's pressing against

another organ.

3) Sometimes an unusual infection can cause inflammations that mimic lymphoma, though this is a remote possibility.

How soon can the disease be identified?

It will take a few days to identify. The doctors at the Mayo Clinic (located in Rochester, Minnesota) have performed a biopsy and through different types of molecular exams they will make a determination of the illness.

What are the possible cures for the various diseases and how successful is each cure?

Treatment for metastasis is more complicated. Depending upon the nature of the tumor, chemotherapy, radiation or immunotherapy may be used. The possibility of a cure is remote.

Lymphoma can be treated and perhaps even cured through chemotherapy and radiation therapy, depending upon the subtype of the cell. If the lymphoma cannot be treated, then the disease can be held in remission for a long period of time by similar treatments. Nevertheless, lymphoma is one of the diseases that is most curable with a rate of success higher than that of tumors.

An infection can be treated by plain antibiotics.

Noah Streit

Beilin: Netanyahu has one week to make peace

By GIL HOFFMAN

If there is no agreement by Wednesday when the Knesset begins its summer recess, there will never be an agreement between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinians, Labor MK Yossi Beilin said yesterday.

At a press conference for foreign journalists, Beilin criticized Netanyahu for having a two-sided policy in which he tries to convince Third Way MKs that a redeployment is imminent while telling the National Religious Party that nothing has happened yet in order to keep his coalition together. Beilin predicted that Netanyahu will continue this policy until the Knesset recesses and gives him a "three-month vacation from no-confidence votes."

In an attempt to prevent this from happening, Beilin introduced a plan that he hopes will reinvigorate the peace process before the Knesset recesses. The plan calls for the transfer of 50 percent of the territories to the Palestinians as part of a new interim agreement and the postponement of the deadline for a

final status agreement until January 2001, when Israel would recognize a demilitarized Palestinian state.

Beilin said the plan would change the current Oslo framework just enough to get the peace process back on track and prevent the outbreak of violence that could erupt if no agreement is reached by May 29, the date when the interim agreement expires and the PA has said it will declare a Palestinian state.

Beilin said the Palestinians do not want to declare a state, however, because they know that an Israeli boycott could be fatal for their economy.

Beilin, who is one of the MKs who signed an agreement Tuesday to provide Netanyahu with a parliamentary safety net to ensure a Knesset majority for a pullback decision, said he would oppose a national unity government. He also criticized the Third Way's bill, in which an absolute majority of at least 61 MKs would be needed to implement any decision to cede land. Beilin said of the bill, which passed preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday, that it would "torpedo the peace process."

Sharon stands firm on claims of secret talks with Syria

By JAY BUSHINSKY

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday held to his assessment that there has been discreet contact between Israel and Syria, focusing on partial or total evacuation of the Golan Heights.

Despite the distractions of his visit to China, Sharon has been in touch with former prime minister Shimon Peres, Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani by telephone on this subject.

A senior government source dismissed Sharon's charge as a "canard."

Sharon stopped short of saying clandestine negotiations have been in progress between Israeli and Syrian officials. He referred to a dialogue conducted in the Syrians' presence, but did not elaborate.

Netanyahu said that such negotiations were impossible as long as Syrian President Hafez Assad insisted that Israel first commit in principle to a withdrawal from all of the Golan.

"We have sent many messages to Assad from all possible directions that if he wants negotiations, and we are prepared for them, Syria must back down from the preconditions it has set," Netanyahu told Israel

Radio.

"There is a difference of opinion between us. They want us to leave the Golan Heights and we don't want to," Netanyahu said.

One of the persons who has spoken to Sharon since his departure quoted him as saying that confirmation of the indirect Israeli-Syrian dialogue about the Golan Heights has come from Washington.

Noah Streit adds:

The chairman of the Golan Residents Committee, Avi Zeira, said yesterday that he does not believe Netanyahu is negotiating with Syria. He said Sharon's accusations are a tool for fighting with Netanyahu.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Limited maneuvering

The growing coalition pressures on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the second redeployment have been occupying the press, which noted that it comes only a week before the three-month Knesset recess.

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea writes in efforts made by those who oppose the redeployment, the negotiations, citing Shas member Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's warning that Netanyahu delay negotiations until after the fast of Tisha B'Av.

"The situation, however, is a typical tactic during these peculiar days, when the situation is so close to the abyss and the very serious people are engaged in a critical struggle on the issue of this state with no room for error."

Barnea writes that Netanyahu is a hostage to his own coalition and adds that the situation can relax.

"Meanwhile, there are no negotiations. There is no wedding. The negotiations are the face of Tisha B'Av."

Yosef writes in *Ma'ariv* that those who threaten Netanyahu

with dissolving the Knesset and conducting new elections will probably not carry out their threats.

He adds that Netanyahu will probably delay the negotiations as long as possible to gain more commitments from the Palestinians that he can present as achievements to the public. Only under these conditions will Netanyahu agree to implement the second redeployment without fear of early elections.

Yehoshua Porat in *Ma'ariv* believes Netanyahu is committed to fulfill the Oslo agreements but in his way, he is attempting to "amend what the Oslo architects distorted. And that is what the peace-balloon blowers are so mad about."

Quarrel in Labor

The dispute between Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen over Dr. Yehzekel Ben-Sira, who was supposed to become party director-general but then stated that former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, is a threat

to Barak "is exactly what the Labor party does not need now," states *Ma'ariv's* Avraham Tirosh.

Tirosh adds that Labor looks like a party that has decided to commit suicide.

"If indeed an internal struggle does develop between Barak and Shahak, the confrontation between Barak and Cohen this week will look like child's play," he writes.

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid fails to understand what virtue Cohen finds in Ben-Sira that he is willing to sacrifice his relationship with Barak.

"If to judge according to Ben-Sira's statements in the press, political wisdom is not one of those virtues."

War crimes

The decision of 120 countries to declare the act of settling in occupied territories a war crime that would become open to the judgment of an international criminal court, "is a harsh and unnecessary generalization," writes Amnon Rubinstein in *Ha'aretz*, and adds that civilian settlement without deportation of the indigenous pop-

ulation is different in character and severity from other cases.

But, he says, "Instead of promoting this big step for humanity [the establishment of an international court], Israel, because of the settlements, does not only oppose the idea but will become the object of international suits against it."

Ma'ariv's Shmuel Shnitzer suggests that the UN study the history of ancient Rome, Australia and the US before it passes judgment on Israeli settlements.

B. Michael in *Yediot* fails to understand the fuss. "The prohibition against transferring a population from the occupying country to the occupied land exists according to international law for years...It was a crime and still is."

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New finding in City of David reveals:

Canaanites built city's water system

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Fresh archaeological discoveries near the Gihon Spring, ancient Jerusalem's principle water source, show that the sophisticated water system heretofore attributed to the conquering Israelites pre-dated them by eight centuries and was even more sophisticated than imagined.

At a press tour of the site yesterday, archeologists of the Israel Antiquities Authority said the famed Warren's Shaft was only a natural fissure in the rock that had nothing to do with the water system.

The 15-meter-high shaft, accessed from a tunnel, was heretofore believed to be the way the ancients accessed the waters of the Gihon from within the walls without exposing themselves to forces besieging the city.

Excavations in the past few months have exposed a tunnel that skirted the shaft and brought residents of the city directly down to a pool near the spring defended from attack by extraordinarily heavy walls and towers.

Contrary to previous belief, the spring itself was heavily fortified and not outside the city's defenses.

Dr. Ronny Reich, who directed the excavations along with Eli Shukron, said the entire system was built as a single complex by Canaanites in the Middle Bronze Period, around 1,800 BCE. "We have to rethink all our concepts about the City of David that were formed over the last century," said Reich.

It is presumed that the water system was still functioning when the city, inhabited by the Jebusites, was captured by David about 1,000 BCE, according to conventional historical dating.

Warren's Shaft was discovered by British explorer Charles Warren in 1867 and was believed ever since to have been the linchpin of the ancient water system. A tunnel on the eastern slope of the City of David led to the top of the shaft, whose bottom was not far from the spring.

The late Dr. Yigal Shiloah, who excavated the area and cleared the tunnel system, wrote in a paper published in 1994 that "residents of the City of David could stand on a platform - perhaps made of wooden planks - at the top of the shaft and draw water by means of a bucket at the end of a rope."

In the absence of ceramics that might date the site, Shiloah attrib-

uted the water system to the Israelite period on the grounds that subterranean water systems were part of the planning of fortified cities like Megiddo, Hazor and Gibeon during this period.

Ceramics found in the current investigations tie the system firmly to the Canaanites, 800 years before David's conquest, said Reich.

The excavations also uncovered on the lower eastern slope a fortified wall from the Middle Bronze Period in an area believed to have been outside the city's defenses.

This would mean that the Canaanite city was almost twice as large as heretofore believed, said Avni, if further excavations show that the wall indeed continued around the city and was not merely an isolated bastion. This might mean that the city David conquered was twice the size hitherto believed if the Jebusites made use of the same defenses.

A major non-find in the excavations was any ceramics or other evidence from the 10th Century BCE, the period of David and Solomon. This deepens the mystery over the paucity of findings from David's time in the city that carries his name.

Eizenstat slams idea

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, in his most forceful statement yet, yesterday assailed the prospect of sanctions against Switzerland, telling a Senate hearing that punitive measures will not help Holocaust survivors, will harden Swiss "inflexibility" and are confusing the lines about who sets the foreign policy of the US.

"Mr. Chairman, I get paid to make judgments about how our actions affect foreign countries," Eizenstat said in Washington at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee, convened by its chairman, Senator Al D'Amato. "I can assure you that far from helping Holocaust survivors achieve a just and fair settlement, sanctions will delay and retard the process - making it more difficult for us to get a measure of justice for Holocaust survivors." Sanctions are wrong in principle and practice, Eizenstat said. "They are wrong in principle, because they are unwarranted and because our nation should speak with one voice in matters of foreign policy and international commerce," he said.

He also called on the Swiss government to

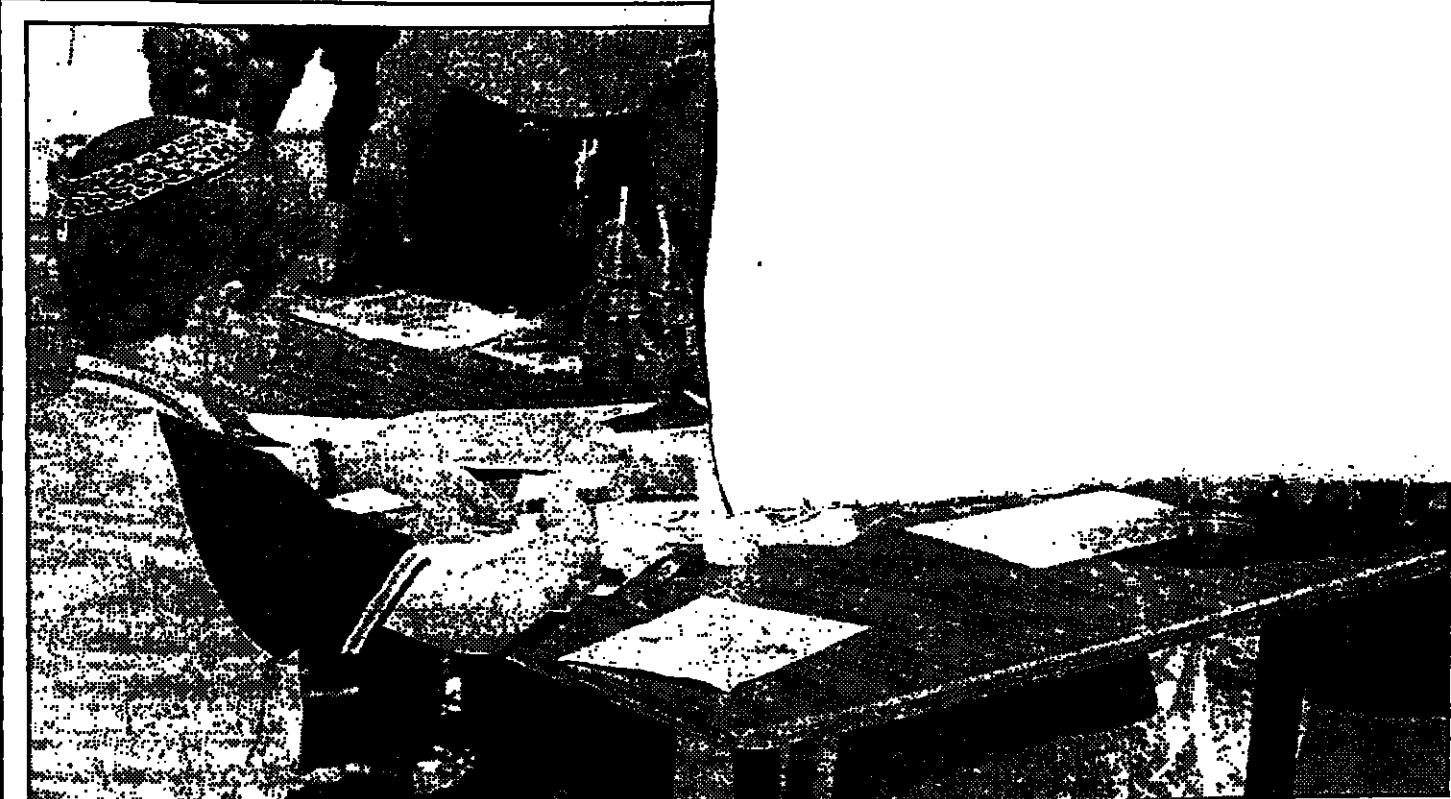
"demonstrate leadership of public support for the private law banks. And, he said, "Swiss government to urge its people to not renew their support for confident, positive path."

The Swiss government hearing, saying that it and its appearance was. However, Swiss Minister Flavio Cotti and US President Bill Clinton threatened in

"The president of the said he expected the administration to take the sanctions," the Fox statement.

Led by New York Hevesi, state and local decided at the end of a forum on sanctions a banks.

That came after an i



Children in the settler tent camp yesterday keep up their daily routine by drawing pictures. Settler leaders decided not to suspend their vigil after a 14-year old protester, Yoad Peless, was struck accidentally by a car and killed Tuesday night. (Israel Hertz)

Settler vigil continues despite death

By AMY KLEIN

Settlers continued their tent protest outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday despite a car accident on Wednesday night that killed 14-year-old Yoad Peless from the Kochav Hashahar settle-

ment. Peless was walking on his way back to the tents when he was hit. He was buried before dawn yesterday morning.

The 21-year-old driver of the car was released yesterday on bail, and police suspended his license.

After the accident Kochav Hashahar residents left immediately, but the settlers decided to keep their vigil today.

"Tent City" - comprising a huge succa-like structure surrounded by about 10 smaller structures - was erected three weeks ago by the Council of

Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza around the corner from the Prime Minister's Office to express the settlers' opposition to a West Bank pullback. Two or three settlements are responsible for sending volunteers each week to man the tents.

Fraud ring sold long-distance calls

By AMY KLEIN

Police have arrested two men suspected of belonging to an east Jerusalem fraud ring that cheated Bezeq International out

of NIS 6 million, and hope to arrest other members of the group this week.

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded Mayel Shweky, 29, and is to

remand the other suspect, Riad Shoker, today.

For the past year, the group illegally tapped into phone lines, and - posing as various communications companies - sold international phone calls at cut-rate prices. The phone lines belonged to the army.

Elisheva Brown-Lapidot, spokeswoman for Bezeq International, said this might be the biggest fraud Bezeq International has ever suffered.

Thousands of international phone calls made to Arab countries such as Kuwait, Lebanon and Syria were charged to the army. Only after detecting an unusual amount of phone calls was the fraud detected.

"Our clients did not know their phones were being tapped, and we alerted them to the problem," Brown-Lapidot said.

Prime Minister's Office
Central Bureau of Statistics



Tender 3/98 - Setting-Up of Communications Network

a. The Required Services

Price bids are invited for the setting up of a communications network, in a building now being completed at 66 Rehov Kanef Nesharim, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The systems covered by this tender are described in the technical specification in the tender documents.

b. Period of Contract

1. The project is to be executed in a period of not more than six months. Other projects, as necessary, will be executed, in a period of two years, from the date on which an agreement is signed.

2. A guarantee for one year after completion of the project, covering the whole project, is to be given.

c. Participation Preconditions

1. Bidders must meet all the following minimum conditions:

- The bidder must be an organization, registered as required by law.

- The bidder must show that he is a registered trader.

- The bidder must show that he keeps account books.

The bidder must be an expert in the setting up of communications networks for computers, based on STP cables, 10 Base-T sockets, and optic fibers, and must have at least 5 years' experience in this field.

- The bidder must have a certificate, showing that he complies with the standard, ISO 9000, applicable to the provision of services and the setting up of installations, or that he is in the process of obtaining such a certificate.

- The bidder must have a country-wide set-up, for the provision of maintenance and installation services.

- The bidder must give a declaration that he has had the experience of installing in Israel at least five installations of the above type, during the last three years. The scope of these installations should be at least 2,000 stations each. Details of these installations should be attached to the bid, together with references.

- The bidder's annual turnover in 1997 should be at least NIS8,000,000.

2. The supplier should attach the following to his bid:

- A registered trader's certificate for the body that will carry out the work.

- A document attesting the fact that he keeps account books and records, as required by the Public Commercial Organizations Law (Keeping of Accounts and Payment of Income Tax) 1976, and also other documents, as detailed in the tender documents.

- A bank guarantee for NIS50,000 should be provided, to ensure compliance with the terms of the tender, valid until December 30, 1998, and linked to the last known index of consumer prices, on the day the bid is submitted.

- A document attesting that the bidder holds an ISO 9000 certificate, or confirmation that he is currently applying for such certification.

- Details of five system installations, as noted above, and details of references.

- A declaration that his annual turnover is at least NIS8,000,000, signed by the company's auditor.

- If the bid is submitted jointly by two or more bodies, the bidders should furnish a copy of the joint agreement, giving their names and identification numbers, and each should provide a set of documents, as detailed in the tender documents.

3. Participation in the meeting of bidders is a precondition for submission of a bid.

d. Bid Submission Timetable

1. The tender documents can be obtained, against payment of NIS500 (non-refundable) at the Central Bureau of Statistics, Room 13, Building 26, Kirya, Romema, Jerusalem (Tel. 02-655 3208, 02-655 3411) between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Sunday to Thursday, July 26 to August 6, 1998.

Purchasing the tender documents is a precondition for participating in the meeting of bidders and for submitting a bid.

2. A meeting of bidders will take place on Thursday, August 6, 1998, at 10 a.m., in the meetings room in Building 26, Kirya, Romema, Jerusalem.

Bidders' questions must be submitted by Sunday, August 16, 1998. Answers will be provided by Sunday, August 23, 1998.

3. Participation in the meeting is obligatory.

e. Criteria for Checking Bids

1. The following criteria will be applied: The bidder's experience and expertise, the system offered and its suitability for the environment in which it is to be installed, the quality of the system offered, cost effectiveness, the recommendations of those for whom the system is required, presentation of the systems, and price.

2. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid or part thereof, or any bid. The Bureau retains the right to cancel the tender, at its own discretion, at any time.

f. Submission of Bids

1. Bids should be submitted in writing, the required documents being attached, in a sealed envelope marked:

Tender 3/98 - Communications Network

2. Bids should be submitted in three copies in Hebrew, and be placed in the tenders box at the Bureau's archives, 22 Rehov Lamproni (ground floor) Kirya, Jerusalem, not later than 12 noon on September 1, 1998.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY



Tender 17/98 Het Mem
Management and Operation of Cafeterias to Serve the Public and the Terminal Staff at the Taba Border Crossing Terminal to provide restaurant service and the sale of newspapers, magazines, cigarettes, souvenirs, phone cards, etc.

- (a) Bids may be submitted by one of the following:
A company registered in Israel or the owner of a private company, registered as a trader for VAT purposes, which complies with the following:
(1) Proven experience in running a cafeteria of at least 24 consecutive months preceding the date for starting the service
(2) The accumulated turnover of sales from running a cafeteria during 12 months preceding the submission of the bid was at least NIS 1,500,000 (one and a half million New Israeli Shekels), not including VAT.
or
Bidders meeting the requirements of Para. 1(a) may submit a joint bid with a corporation and/or with one other person if they undertake to form a new, legally registered company for that purpose (if their bid is successful), and if at least 67% of the share capital of the new company (to be set up) is held by the company or company owner.
- Joint bidders whose bid is successful must undertake to form a company, legally registered in Israel, complying with the conditions set forth in Sub-para. (a), within 30 days of receiving notice of winning the tender. The documents of the new company should include the decision and/or the intention to adopt the agreement signed with them, and after the forming of the legally registered company those authorized to sign for the new company must add their signatures to the agreement together with the stamp of the new company.
- The period of contract will run from September 15, 1998 until December 31, 2001. The Authority is entitled, at its sole and final discretion, to extend the period of the agreement, for two additional periods only, each of them for not less than one month and not more than 12 months, or for one additional period of not less than one month or more than 24 months. The Authority may make the extension conditional on raising the fee.
- The tender documents may be purchased from July 26, 1998, at the Commercial and Property Branch of the Authority, Main Building, 2nd floor, Sunday - Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, and between 2 and 3 p.m. Before receiving the tender documents, the applicant must submit in writing the name of the liaison person, the phone and fax numbers, and pay the cost of NIS 1,000 (one thousand New Israeli Shekels) including VAT - cash or check. This sum is not refundable.
- A tour for those who purchase the tender documents only will be held on August 5, 1998, at 10 a.m. at the Taba Terminal.
- Bids, prepared in accordance with the tender documents must be placed in the tenders box at the Registration and Documentation Dept. (the Archives) at the Head Office of the Authority, Ben-Gurion Airport, by Thursday, August 20, 1998 at 10 a.m.
- No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.

Pre-recess flurry of bills pass preliminary reading

AT THE KNESSET

The Knesset yesterday passed a string of bills in preliminary reading in an effort to clear the backlog before the summer recess begins, at the end of next week.

The bills (and their sponsors) included:

• A bill anchoring women's rights in various areas, including the military and workplace, in one comprehensive law (Labor's Yael Dayan).

• A bill that would enable a person to request their place of birth not be marked on their identity card (Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman).

• A bill banning motorcyclists from giving passengers rides until at least six months after they get their licenses. (Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg).

• A bill under which if a government office or local authority loses a person's documents, the affected person would receive compensation for any delay in approving a request (Yisrael Ba'aliya's Yuli Stern).

• A bill that would grant compensation to military reservists called up for one-day stunts (Labor's Binyamin Ben-Eliezer).

War crimes

Answering several motions on the UN convention last week that, in setting up an international war crimes tribunal, declared settlement in the territories potential war crimes, Science Minister Silvan Shalom said: "The cynical exploitation of the [Rome] Covenant by a number of states turned it from a treaty of justice into a tool serving dirty political means by those who

have nothing in common with human rights and humane justice."

Shalom said it is inconceivable that the settlements of Judea, Samaria and Gaza be put in the same category as mass murder, mass rapes, armed attacks on population centers, torture and human experiments.

He said Israel would fight the decision until it is canceled, as was the Zionism is Racism resolution.

Shalom added that this type of decision hindered progress on the peace process.

Banning racist local lists

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday approved for second and third reading a bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) which would prevent racist parties from running in the local elections.

If the bill passes the two final readings next week, as planned, it would be in force for the municipal elections in November.

Cohen said he had initiated the bill after learning that lists of Kach and Kahana activists planned to run in Jerusalem, Kiryat Arba and elsewhere.

Upping soldiers' pay

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday approved for first reading a bill by

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) which would, over a two-year period, double the pay of soldiers doing compulsory service.

Today, combat soldiers are paid NIS 530 a month; non-combat soldiers in fighting units receive NIS 430 a month; and soldiers in rear-guard units get NIS 290.

The Finance Ministry opposes the plan, which would cost some NIS 300 million the first year.

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), who chaired a subcommittee that studied the issue, said it was important to pass the bill soon, so the expense could be included in the discussions on the 1999 budget.

Waterlogged

The average added water content in processed meat in Israel is between 30% and 50% although the amounts can in some cases reach 80%.

These figures were presented at a meeting of the Knesset Public Complaints Committee, chaired by MK Rafi Elul (Labor).

Representatives of the meat industry admitted injecting water into their products in amounts much greater than the permitted level of 10%. They said in their defense that the meat loses a lot of fluid and "blackens" during the kashering process. They also said it lowers the price for the consumer.

Elul called the situation "scandalous" and said he would act to write regulations requiring that the amount of injected water be marked on products.

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Knesset guard's leg broken in clash with 'sit-in' students

By LIAT COLLINS

A member of the Knesset Guard ended up with a broken leg following a scuffle with a group of students protesting against high tuition fees who staged an unexpected sit-in near the Prime Minister's Bureau in the Knesset.

The Knesset Guard called in guards from around the House to

help evict some 80 students from the building shortly before the prime minister was expected to arrive. In the resulting fray, a veteran member of the Knesset Guard suffered a serious fracture. He was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital at Mount Scopus, where he underwent an operation.

MKs from various factions had invited the students to the House

for discussions on tuition fees and student rights. Attracted by the television crews and press who had gathered on the floor where the ministers have their offices before the Golan Heights bill was presented, the students began shouting slogans and staged a sit-in close to the Prime Minister's Bureau.

The deputy head of the Knesset Guard filed a police complaint

against six students who are suspected of initiating the protest. Student leader Eran Weintraub said yesterday's protest "was only a sign of things to come. Not only is the academic year in danger of not starting, we will bring the country to a halt."

The Knesset passed preliminary reading of a few bills relating to students yesterday, including one

by MK Nissim Zvilli (Labor) easing income tax rates for undergraduates and a bill by MK Yuli Stem (Yisrael Ba'aliya) which would ensure that students on reserve duty would be paid at least 70 percent of the average wage.

A spokeswoman for Zvilli, who had invited the students to a meeting, said he did not approve of violence of any type.

Ministry director-general:

Driving examiner had right to snub scantily clad woman

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Transport Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental was outraged last week when a religious driving examiner in the Haifa Bay area refused to get into a car with a young woman because she was immodestly dressed, but that was before he saw a photograph of what she was wearing.

Shiran Friedman had come to the test in shorts and what appeared to be a bikini top.

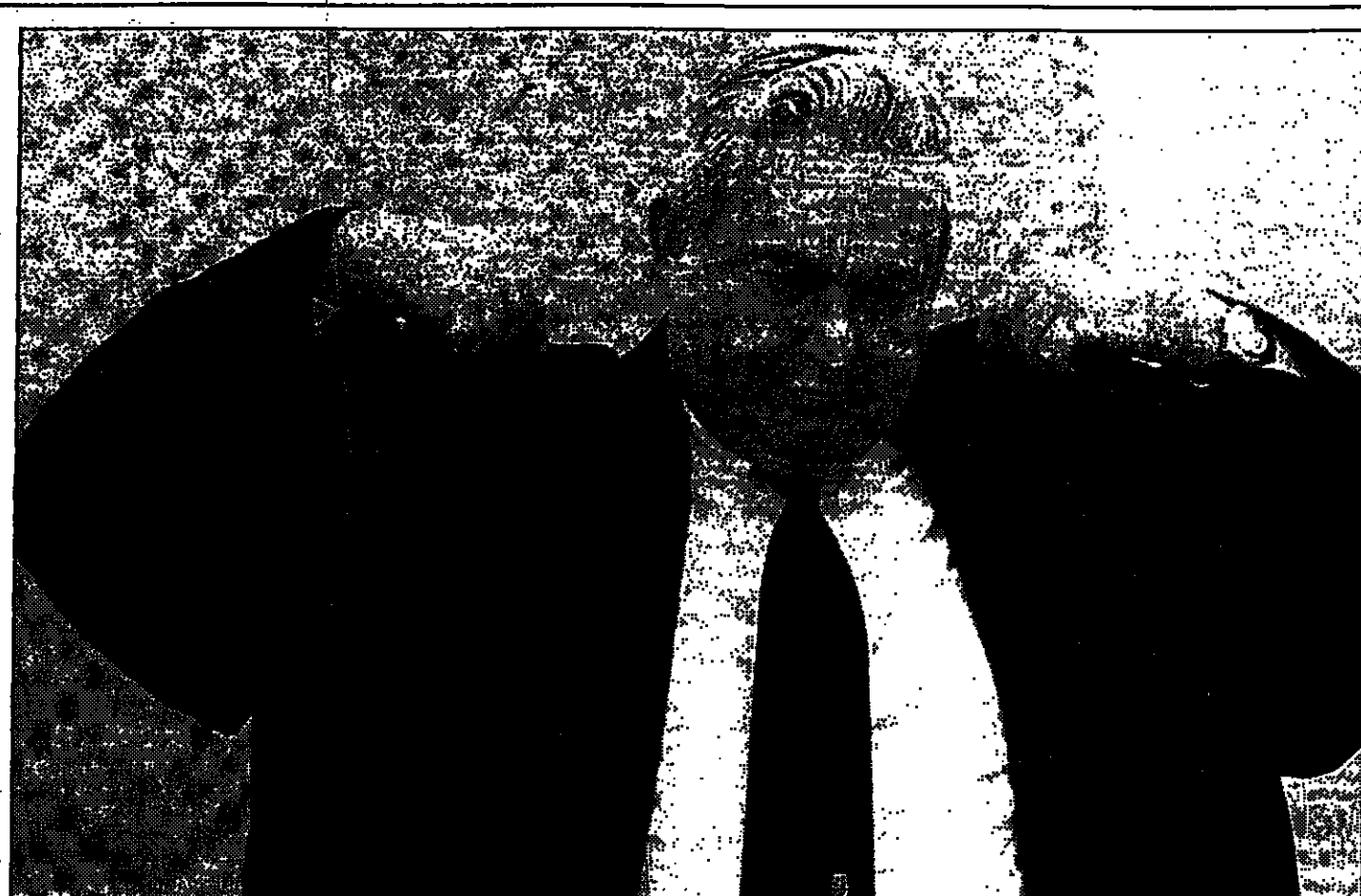
Langental, who said that Friedman had crossed the norms governing appearance in a public institution, added that this did not mean that she should be denied the right to be tested. At the same time, Langental said, he could understand the feelings of the tester, who did not want to be alone in a car with her.

In the conflict between the duty of a public servant to give polite and helpful service and the public servant's right to protect his own dignity and personal morality, Langental said, the right of the public servant prevailed.

It was Friedman, he said, who showed disregard for the norms of courtesy and culture. He added that he wonders if she would dare to go to work or to any other public institution dressed that way.

"I don't set myself up to be a censor of dress, but in this case the lack of respect and infringement of basic norms of behavior were proven beyond a shadow of a doubt and I side with the person who wanted to retain his dignity and conscience," Langental said.

He decided that the Transport Ministry would continue to test all candidates, but that if a tester felt he could not carry out a test for reasons of conscience, another tester would take his place. While he did not feel there should be rules or regulations regarding dress in public places, he called upon the public to behave reasonably so that everyone could receive the service to which he is entitled.



Dror Hoter-Yishai - I was elected by a large majority.

(Flash 90)

Court bans Hoter-Yishai from judges appointment panel pending petitions

By DAN IZENBERG

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued a temporary order banning Israel Bar Chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai from participating in meetings of the judges appointments committee until it hears two petitions against his election to the committee.

The National Council of the Israel Bar elected him last week.

During the hour-long hearing, Justice Shlomo Levine asked Hoter-Yishai whether or not he would be willing to suspend himself until the petitions were decided. Hoter-Yishai refused.

Afterwards, he told reporters, "This is the second time they are trying to block me from being a member of the committee. There is no doubt that there are people

who are interested in weakening the representation of the Bar. Appointing judges is difficult work. I was elected to the committee twice... I was shocked by the way they tried to prevent me from returning to it [the second time]. I am not a member by appointment. I was elected by a large majority."

Hoter-Yishai's membership was challenged by the Movement for Quality Government and by some of his opponents in the Bar.

The Movement for Quality Government said Hoter-Yishai should not be a member of the committee as long as there is an indictment against him. Last week the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office filed charges against him for contempt of court.

The petitioners, represented by attorney Shlomo Cohen, said the procedure for electing Hoter-Yishai to the judges appointments committee was in violation of the Bar's internal regulations.

Eliad Shraga, representing the Movement for Quality Government, said he had nothing personal against Hoter-Yishai.

"Hoter-Yishai himself set the standard of behavior by resigning from the committee when the first indictment was served against him," he said. "I think he should do the same thing again. He should not be sitting there when a heavy cloud is hanging over him."

The court gave the Justice Ministry 10 days to explain why it would not suspend Hoter-Yishai from his membership on

the judges appointment committee and gave the National Council of the Bar 10 days to explain why it would not hold new elections for the post.

Meanwhile, Haim Klugman, the director-general of the Bar, asked Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi not to convene the judges election committee until the petitions against Hoter-Yishai are decided.

Klugman wrote that the Bar is entitled to two representatives on the nine-person committee, and it would not be in accordance with the law if the Bar was short-handed.

A meeting of the committee scheduled for today has been postponed, according to a spokesman for the courts administrative department.

NEWS

in brief

Kach posts anti-PM posters in Beersheba

Right-wing extremists pasted posters in Beersheba yesterday that depict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an Arab sympathizer and a liar. The outlawed Kach group claimed responsibility for the photo montages showing Netanyahu wearing a keffiyeh with the word "Liar" printed below. Similar posters have been put up in Jerusalem in the past.

"Benjamin Netanyahu wearing a keffiyeh shows he is acting like an Arab. Instead of assisting Israel like a Jewish prime minister, he is endangering its residents," Kach activist Noam Federman told Israel Radio.

Federman said his group is engaged in a campaign to discredit Netanyahu because it fears he will cede West Bank land to the Palestinians as part of peace agreements. AP

MKS delay vote on Ben-Porat pension rise

The State Comptroller's Office yesterday called on the Knesset Finance Committee to grant a 50 percent increase in the pension payable to outgoing heads of the office. This would put recently retired Miriam Ben Porat's pension in line with that of judges. The committee decided not to vote on the issue for the time being, at the request of MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas).

"It's an unprecedented scandal that someone with a NIS 35,000 pension should request more," Cohen said. David Harris

Group drops objection to Drexler appointment

The Amitai organization agreed yesterday to withdraw its petition to the High Court of Justice against Avi Drexler's appointment as head of the Israel Lands Authority. Under an agreement Amitai reached with Drexler's lawyer, he would step down from the position if charges are brought against him regarding his testimony in the Aryeh Deri trial. In addition, Drexler will not personally deal with any real estate matters which he dealt with in his previous job as a private lawyer. Itim

Eldar: IDF field security can't take criticism

Naval Capt. (res.) Mike Eldar, who was released on bail Tuesday after being arrested for publishing a secret document on the Internet, said yesterday that elements in the army's field security are pursuing a vendetta against him.

Eldar published a document dealing with what he considers to be blunders by the navy in its searches for the *Dakar* submarine, which disappeared in 1968. He is also the author of a banned book on the episode.

"I've also published in my works criticism of the body known as field security, and they are not brave enough to take this criticism quietly," Eldar told Army Radio. Itim

Manbar: Gov't betrayed me

By GIL HOFFMAN and ITIM

Nahum Manbar accused both the current and previous governments of betraying him in an interview yesterday.

"They transformed me from a patriot into a traitor and that is what hurts the most," he told Army Radio. "They assassinated my character."

Regarding Judge Amnon Strashnov, who sentenced him to 16 years in prison last week for aiding and abetting the enemy, Manbar said that from the outset he had a feeling that the judge was hostile to him and should have stepped down from the case.

Manbar said he knew of Strashnov's alleged intimate relationship with defense lawyer Pinat Yanai before his June 17 conviction, but he said his wife only started taping conversations with Yanai and making contact with Yanai's ex-boyfriend Ziv Chen after his conviction. Strashnov and Yanai have both denied the allegations.

Manbar told Army Radio that he supports opening a police investigation into the Strashnov Affair. He is also awaiting an appeal of his conviction.

Manbar also referred to his efforts to obtain information on missing airman Ron Arad, saying he had obtained more information on the fate of Arad than the entire Israeli defense establishment.

His arrest, according to Manbar, ended progress on the subject. "If they would have permitted me to continue, there would have been a better chance for me to achieve something because of my connections with the Iranians, which Israel knew about," he said.

Manbar said he was surprised that a cassette about Arad that he supplied to the defense establishment was deemed counterfeit. He denounced as lies accusations by the defense ministry that he purposely harmed efforts to find information on Arad, saying "I invested a tremendous amount of money and time in order to find out information on Arad."



Participants in the Israel Jubilee Exhibition show off their portrayal of the many faces of the Jewish people. The exhibition starts on August 4 at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds. (Israel Sun)

Jubilee Association director promises 'unforgettable' exhibition

By HELEN KAYE

The Tel Aviv Fairgrounds are now a tapestry of banners, welders' torches and spray-cans. In advance of the opening of Israel's Jubilee Exhibition to the public on August 4, exactly on schedule.

Jubilee Association head Doron Shmueli said this is the largest and most complex exhibition the state has ever mounted. He added that it is the duty of every citizen to visit this exhibition. It will be an unforgettable experience for this generation.

There will be 20 pavilions

employing state-of-the-art and interactive technologies to showcase the state's achievements, with an emphasis on the future. IDF and military industries displays comprise some 40 percent of the exhibition. Ranging from 1948 to 2020, different pavilions will present Israeli accomplishments in science, technology, space, the arts, housing, agriculture, and other fields.

Most government ministries have pavilions, each with a distinct character. Housing, for instance, shows what 21st century houses may look like. The bright yellow and sky-blue colors of the

agriculture pavilion represent energy and water.

The ministries of Tourism, Finance, National Infrastructure, Absorption, Religious Affairs and Justice have refused to participate in the exhibition.

A Religious Affairs Ministry spokesperson said "we didn't have the money. We would have had to spend a minimum of NIS 350,000 from a total NIS 1.5 m. we have earmarked for promotion."

Tourism and Absorption said that they preferred to use their budgets for what they called more essential projects.

Where to eat in Israel

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO - Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher Dairy. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkranz for reservations. 9 Horkanos. Tel. 02-623 6086.

COFFEE MILL, Coffee Beanery and Loose Teas, Espresso Bar, Jim. Rabbinate kosher. Light dairy menu; coffee & tea accessories. 23 Emek Refaim Tel. 586-1665. Can. Taipei Tel. 672-5549.

DARINA - Authentic Moroccan Restaurant, KOSHER. Our home is your home. Business lunch, salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69, with this ad. Open 12-3 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 5406.

DEVORAH SCHECHTER CATERING, Kosher Limehadrin, Jerusalem Rabbinate. Catering for all occasions, Shabbat and Hagim. Meat, dairy and parve menus. Great desserts. Tel. 02-679-4872. Fax. 02-679-5370.

ETNAKHTA, full dairy Italian menu, kosher. Breakfast and lunch specials. Salads rated "excellent" by The Jerusalem Post "Salad Survey." 12 Yoel Salomon, Tel. 02-625-6584.

EUCALYPTUS - The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Evening entertainment. Rave reviews. Kosher. 7 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHLOMO - RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Bit Mithas, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Brachos. 58 King George St. Glat Koshersmeat Tel. 02-622

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food; Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11 p.m.; Sun-Thurs., Fri. till 3 p.m. 18 King George St., (next to Carvel). Tel. 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK 'N' BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. American style food and service. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinate. 27 Emek Refaim, German Colony. Tel. 02-566 6603.

THE PIE SHOP - Tea & Pie, don't pass me by, kosher, sweet & savory pies, dairy menu; soups, salads, toasts, specialty drinks. Open 11 a.m. - 12 midnight. 9 Yoel Salomon (back yard). Tel. 02-624-8712.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM - Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting - spectacular view - private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel. 02-625 1042.

RIENZI - Candlelight dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and homemade pasta. Kosher Limehadrin-Dairy. Business lunch from NIS 35. 10 King David St. (Opp New Hilton Hotel). Tel. 02-622 2312.

A Jerusalem landmark - RIMON RESTAURANT Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. CAFE RIMON Dairy and Fish. Superb pastry. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glat Koshersmeat. 4 Luriz St. (off Midrachov). Tel. 02-624 5712

SAVION - Enjoy al fresco or spacious air-conditioned dining. Serving a delicious Fish & Dairy menu - Kosher Rabbinate. Celebrate birthdays with us! Open 7 a.m.-1 a.m. daily & motza'ei Shabbat. Ben Maimon 1, corner Azza. Tel. 02-567 0708.

SIGMUND CORNER BISTROCAFE - An Art Deco Decor - Serving crepes, sandwiches, ice cream, shakes & breaded coffee. Reasonable prices. Sun-Thurs. 8 a.m.-1 a.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Sat. 8 p.m.-1 p.m. Kosher. Corner Azza/Harari St. Tel. 02-563 8212.

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TZADDIK'S - Jerusalem's Real Authentic New York Deli. Corned beef, roast beef, brisket, salami, all-beef hot dogs, H&M bagels, draft beer. Kosher Limehadrin. 2 Tiferet Yisrael St., The Jewish Quarter. 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Tel. 02-627-2148.

ROSH PINA
B'RAYIT SHEL RAFA - In the heart of old Rosh Pina, find an intimate and special restaurant serving casseroles, steak and vegetable food. Gourmet cooking and reasonable prices. Tel: 06-653-6182.

MESEDET HAKFAR Unique Argentinian Restaurant - Serves all year round quality meat meals on ORIGINAL PARRILLA. Country atmosphere. Rosh Pina. Tel. 06-6838026 for reservations. (http://www.zimmer.co.il/assador)

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Saddam's next gambit

It's been 30 years since Saddam Hussein seized power in Iraq and the way things are going, he's likely to celebrate his fortieth anniversary.

Ironically, Saddam's tenure shows that the Arab world has become remarkably stable. In the quarter-century between 1949 – a year in which three coups took place in Damascus alone – and 1974, when Muammar Qadhafi seized power in Libya, Syria had 10 successful coups. Over the next 25 years, however, Damascus was ruled by Hafez Assad.

During that same period and pre-Saddam, Iraq had three coups (1958, 1963, and 1968), as well as many failed attempts. True, Saddam's reign has been bloody, but that was more a matter of invading neighboring countries than a desperate struggle to survive internal opposition.

In Egypt, despite Gamal Abdel Nasser's natural death and Anwar Sadat's assassination, the same regime has ruled since 1952 with no serious challenge other than that posed by Islamic radicals.

King Hussein of Jordan has also defied pessimistic predictions.

Indeed, other than two geographically and politically marginal states – Yemen and Sudan – no officers or revolutionaries have seized power in the Arab world in the past 25 years. Even the major civil wars in Lebanon and Algeria failed to alter the existing order.

How can this dramatic shift to stability be explained, especially considering that most of these governments neither raised living standards dramatically nor gave their citizens broad freedoms?

The answer is simply that rulers have learned how to stay in power. They now understand how to control the army and assemble a loyal officer corps, combine militant rhetoric with pragmatist policies, and build a sturdy base of support founded on an ethnic group or mass organizations. They have learned how to combine rewards and repression to create fairly stable systems.

This equilibrium is contested by revolutionary Islamic groups but will be tested more seriously, if less immediately, by a generational change of both leaders and masses.

The death of any dictator – especially in Libya, Syria or Iraq – could result in power struggles or generate political change. The most likely outcome would be the same system led by different faces. But in these three countries, a successor might be better for both his subjects and regional peace.

In the long run, the rise of a new generation with higher education and expectations may generate big changes: either fomenting Islamic radicalism or a push for democracy.

However, the overall situation in the Arab world is quite conducive to lasting peace with Israel.

One sign of this is that railing at Israel to excuse domestic repression and failure no longer works.

Saddam is a case in point. His July 17 anniversary speech revolved largely around Israel, employing lots of Islamic quotes and imagery, an approach quite alien to both Saddam's regime and the Ba'ath party.

Despite the threats, though, the speech was rather pathetic, full of whining and frustration over Iraq's failure to rapidly restore its once prominent role in the Arab world. Complaining that Iraq would probably not be invited to the next Arab summit, Saddam condemned the peace process and urged other Arabs to "return to righteousness."

If only Arabs were tough and united, he argued, Israel and the United States would be forced into concessions. Success, he added, requires using "men who win half the battle by their fame," an apparent reference to himself.

Of course, the radical camp's best argument is the slow pace of the peace process and Israel's declining credibility.

In Saddam's words, some Arabs "hoped that the United States would consider their friendship and sacrifices for its sake over the past two or three decades; but, Palestine and other Arab territories have remained occupied."

Especially fascinating is Saddam's proposed strategy for the Arabs, one that reiterates both his mistakes during the Kuwait crisis and the great Arab error of menacing Israel in 1967:

"The enemy cannot be made to understand the truth and respond to what is right and just by submission, but rather by the Arabs taking an honorable and proud stand, in which case the foreigner may retreat without shedding blood."

In other words, create a crisis and hope the other side retreats. From such miscalculations sprang the disasters of modern Arab history.

Saddam will try to "erode" international sanctions by intransigence while mobilizing support from "those who have no interest in the blockade" – meaning widening the gap between France, Russia and China on the one hand and the United States on the other.

In a few months, Iraq will seek renewed confrontation so as to raise the price of maintaining sanctions.

As its UN Ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, put it recently: "Either the sanctions will be lifted as soon as possible or, by October or November, if the sanctions are not lifted, there will be a crisis."

The Region

Barry Rubin

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

MINSK, Belarus – First, he ordered ambassadors out of their homes, cut off the power and water, and locked them out. Now he wants the furniture removed.

Alexander Lukashenko, president of this former Soviet republic in Eastern Europe, is fighting a quixotic battle to empty the diplomatic quarter of his capital.

But why? To grab prime real estate next to his own residence, some say. To retaliate for Western carping against his one-man rule, others say. To prepare the way for reintegration of Belarus into a revived Soviet-style union with neighboring Russia, still others guess.

But guesses they remain. The impulsive Lukashenko, 43, has emerged as the most confounding leader in the 15 former Soviet republics that have become independent states, with more than their fair share of dictators and despots.

His political style includes the revival of mass Stalinist-style military parades, the creation of a personality cult around himself and repression that make Belarusian liberals fearful of a return to a totalitarian past.

His economic policies, which reject Western-style privatization schemes and pour subsidies into rundown farms and decrepit industries, go against the grain of every other former Soviet republic.

It all makes Belarus the man-bites-dog story of the former Soviet Union: a leader and supporters who resist the sweeping change occurring in almost all of the other former republics. Instead, Lukashenko's nostalgia for the old days just may be bringing them back to this nation of 10 million.

This state of affairs might not make a difference to the outside world, given Belarus' relatively insignificant role on the global stage. The country is largely a potato republic, dependent on Russia for trade and for fuel it rarely pays for.

Yet Lukashenko seems to have appeal not only in his country, where he is popular, but in Russia. Some Russians fear Belarus is a forerunner of what could happen in their country if the economy continues to decline and President Boris Yeltsin passes from the scene.

"We are small, but we are not so unlike Russia," said Stanislav Shushkevich, the former speaker of parliament who in 1991 pulled the country out of the Soviet Union.

"We have an impoverished countryside and insecure population. Lukashenko says he won't let the problems of Russia happen to Belarus, and that is popular here. It may also soon be popular in Russia."

History has been a punishment for Belarus. Its rolling countryside, squeezed between Poland

Minsk's little Stalin

By rejecting market economics, cultivating a cult personality and evicting the diplomatic corps, Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko has emerged as the most confounding post-Soviet leader.



A worker's poster reads 'proud of your 'achievements' but also hungry,' referring to President Lukashenko in Minsk last week. The impulsive Lukashenko, 43, challenges history's tide. (AP)

and Russia, is a doormat for invaders.

During World War II, Belarus – then known as the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic – was overrun twice, first by the Germans and then by the counterattacking Red Army. Hundreds of thousands of civilians and fighters died, and its large Jewish population was largely wiped out.

Minsk was flattened, and only a small, rebuilt old town near a river offers a reminder of the modest pre-war city.

Belarusians and foreigners say past horrors make Belarusians yearn for little more than stability and a strong leader to protect them.

One explanation of the diplomatic row is that Lukashenko felt a need to stand up to foreign critics; unlike other leaders of former Soviet states, he gets no invitations from the West for official visits.

In April, the government

informed ambassadors that their abode in the Drozdzy residential complex, a wooded enclave outside the city, was only temporary and they would have to leave. The diplomats objected, and in June, things escalated quickly.

Claiming the compound was threatened by an inundation of sewage from rotting pipes that needed fixing, the government ordered gates to the compound locked, and power and water cut.

Ambassadors from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Japan were called home. The Europeans left one morning in a limousine caravan after holding an open-air champagne toast. The Russian ambassador stayed for a while, but then went home on leave – an apparent effort by Moscow to avoid either breaking with Minsk or taking its side.

The embassies themselves

remain functioning under the management of their respective charges d'affaires.

Belarusians took the incident in stride. At the cavernous central market, shoppers appeared perplexed by the uproar.

"The president will take good care of the ambassadors," said one woman lining up for frozen chicken. "He takes care of us, so why not them?"

The belief that Lukashenko cares is the basis of his popularity – even staunch opponents of the regime concede he holds the political loyalty of about 60 percent of the population. He won the 1994 presidential elections overwhelmingly, on an anti-corruption platform.

He calls himself Batka – father.

His speeches are theatrical: He laughs, he cries, he holds his hands to his heart, he blames problems on evil outside forces.

Born to a single mother in a rural village, his humble past

endears him even to city Belarusians, most of whom are only a generation away from the village themselves. He has been known to Rollerblade in a red spandex outfit, or play hockey with the national team – and of course, he scores.

"He has created the myth of a powerful and caring president," said Tatyana Protka, who heads the Belarusian Helsinki Committee of human rights watchers. "It's useful to remember that many people loved Stalin."

Lukashenko has vowed to avoid the economic dislocations in Russia brought on by rapid privatization and other efforts to create a market economy. But his economic policies are contradictory, a mix of the free market and the old Soviet system.

The government has opposed the privatization of major state-owned industries but has allowed private investors, including Ford Motor Co. and McDonald's Corp., to set up operations.

Officials say the economy is growing at the robust rate of 10 percent. But independent economists dispute the figure, saying it does not take inflation nor the devaluation of the currency into account.

Lukashenko, they say, makes money the old-fashioned, Communist way – by printing it to cover salaries on farms and in factories, even the least productive of them.

Political opposition to Lukashenko is divided and cowed. With talk of parliamentary and presidential elections being held next year, no one thinks that Lukashenko can be weakened significantly.

Part of the opposition weakness is a response to intimidation. Repression gives Minsk an atmosphere reminiscent of Soviet times.

Recently, two teens were sentenced to 18 months in prison for writing anti-Lukashenko graffiti on a wall. One of the boys is on probation because he is only 16. The 18-year-old is in a jail usually reserved for felons.

In the past, Lukashenko's police have roughed up demonstrators, and even more sinister bullying periodically occurs.

In December, Yuri Khasherbatsky, an internationally known, award-winning documentary filmmaker, was severely beaten at his small workshop by two burly strangers. Khasherbatsky recently had produced a documentary depicting the dictatorial style of Lukashenko.

State television turns out rapturous reports of Lukashenko's activities, while the owners of the few opposition newspapers available face frequent inspections from tax authorities and difficulties in dealing with the government-run distribution system.

(The Washington Post)

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China's Jiang orders military out of industry

By SCOTT HILLS

BEIJING (Reuters) - Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin yesterday ordered China's military to give up its sprawling commercial empire in one of his boldest moves yet to stamp out rampant corruption.

Jiang, who also holds the powerful post of chairman of the Central Military Commission, had issued the order at a meeting called to rally the army to Beijing's anti-smuggling drive, the Xinhua news agency said.

"The army and armed police forces must earnestly carry out checks on all kinds of commercial

companies set up by subsidiary units, and without exception from today must not engage in their operation," Xinhua quoted Jiang as saying.

Political and legal organs would have to abandon their business operations as well, Jiang said. He gave no details as to how the order would be carried out.

The ban on commercial activity would be a major blow to the People's Liberation Army, which has used its clout to cash in on two decades of market-style economic reforms. The PLA and the paramilitary People's Armed Police run tens of thousands of businesses ranging from golf courses to

computer companies but have been largely immune from Beijing's efforts to weed out official graft.

Couching his order in an appeal to the military to back a new high-profile drive against smuggling, Jiang pointed a finger at army involvement in underground trade.

"The whole army must earnestly implement the anti-smuggling work and deployment... and strictly investigate problems with some units and people involved with the army and armed police," Jiang said.

Smuggling is not the only wrongdoing the military has been implicated in recently.



Jiang Zemin: Blow to the army (AP)

This month, Chinese stock market watchdogs launched a probe into top executives at J&A Securities, a heavyweight brokerage set up with investment from the Guangzhou military region. Its Chinese name, Junan, is a play on the word for "military."

Analysts have said the investigation is part of a wider drive against economic crime that includes the smuggling crackdown and increased reports of tough jail sentences for corrupt officials.

Jiang warned of the disastrous effects of smuggling, echoing comments by his premier, Zhu Rongji, last week that illegal imports of oil and other major

commodities threatened economic growth.

"If we do not resolutely strike at this kind of economic crime, it will spread unchecked and result in enormous social harm," Jiang said.

Smuggling cost China about 100 billion yuan (\$12b.) a year, Xinhua reported.

Last week the Communist Party mouthpiece, the *People's Daily*, blamed the military for hampering the fight against smuggling.

"The involvement in smuggling by party, government and army organizations or by firms run by or affiliated with law enforcement or judicial bodies... is aggravating

and complicating the problem," the newspaper said.

In another sign of top-level concern over graft, prosecutors last week brought corruption charges against former Beijing Communist Party boss and mayor Chen Xitong, the highest official ever exposed in a graft scandal.

Chen's case had been hanging open since 1995, when he was purged from the party following the suicide of a protégé under investigation in a \$37 million embezzlement case.

The case is widely viewed as a litmus test of Beijing's willingness to tackle abuse of power within the top ranks of power.

Algeria pledges full access to UN human-rights mission

ALGIERS (Reuters) - Algeria, eager to dispel widespread allegations of human rights abuses, has pledged full access to a UN fact-finding team which left yesterday for the violence-racked country.

The team, formed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and led by former Portuguese president Mario Soares, will meet Algerian leaders, legal political groups and newspaper editors during its two-week mission.

The government said the panel's free movement would be allowed "within respect of the country's law," effectively barring it from meeting radical Islamist leaders.

Algerian official media said Annan discussed the mission over the telephone with President Liamine Zeroual on Tuesday.

"President Zeroual stressed to the UN secretary-general that the Algerian government will meet the conditions necessary for the team to achieve its mandate to gather information," state-run radio said.

Human rights activists and opposition politicians have urged

the six-member group to focus on human rights in the country, where more than 65,000 people have been killed since 1992.

At least four people were shot dead and 15 wounded on Tuesday when suspected Moslem rebels stopped a passenger bus at a fake roadblock in the western city of Sig, *El Watan* and *La Tribune* newspapers said yesterday.

The latest attack brought the number of those killed in the past 10 days to more than 90 people.

Algeria has been racked by violence since early 1992, when the authorities canceled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

The government blames the killings on Moslem rebels, mostly the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

Human rights groups abroad and at home have cast doubts about the perpetrators and raised questions about some of the most gruesome massacres of civilians carried out within earshot of military barracks and police facilities.

The government has dismissed

the charges as unfair and biased, because they "equate security forces struggling to defend the people's safety and terrorists who are denying basic human rights by killing innocent civilians."

"We hope that the testimony of these high personalities [the UN panel] will add to other testimonies by senior visiting foreigners, such as European Union parliamentarians, to correct an erroneous image of Algeria abroad," Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia said in an interview earlier this month.

Summing up government expectations, Ouyahia added: "Now, we have to give the international community a thorough image of Algeria, one of an Algeria that is still suffering, but struggling to build itself in all fields."

Besides Soares, the team includes former prime ministers I.K. Gujral of India and Abdul Karim Kabariti of Jordan, former US UN representative Donald McHenry, French former secretary of state Simone Veil and Kenyan Attorney-General Amos Wako.



Remains from old London

Bill White, chief human osteologist at the Museum of London, examines a woman's skull yesterday from the early 1800s, one of some 6,000 skeletons from pre-historic to Victorian London at the museum. This woman, whose skull was found in recent excavations for the extension of London's Underground, died of syphilis and was probably a prostitute, says White. With so many skeletons, archeologists can make accurate models of life in old London. (AP)

Alan Shepard, first US spaceman, dies at 74

By PAUL REGER

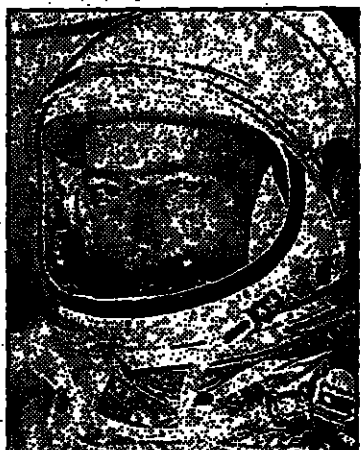
WASHINGTON (AP) - Astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American to fly in space and one of only 12 Americans to walk on the moon, has died at age 74.

Shepard, one of the revered original seven Mercury astronauts named by NASA in April 1959, died Tuesday night at Community Hospital near Monterey, California, said Howard Benedict, executive director of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation in Titusville, Florida, who had talked to Shepard's wife.

The former Navy test pilot made a 15-minute suborbital flight - five of those minutes in space - on May 5, 1961, aboard the *Freedom 7* spacecraft.

Ten years later, after overcoming a serious ear infection that lingered for six years, Shepard returned to space for his second and last flight as commander of Apollo 14 on Jan. 31, 1971.

Shepard spent 33 hours on the moon during the third lunar landing mission and became the only lunar golfer, playfully whacking golf balls with a six-iron. On that flight, Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa spent nine days in space; Mitchell and Shepard stayed on the moon for two days. Although Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin beat Shepard into space by 23 days, Shepard's 1961 flight marked the beginning of the infant US space program. He prophetically called that first flight "just the first baby step, aiming for bigger and better



Alan Shepard (AP)

things."

Less than three weeks later, on May 25, 1961, President Kennedy set forth the goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

Known for his cocksure determination and ready wit, Shepard also could be perceived as icily distant and stubborn. He had been characterized as the most eager to be picked from among three astronauts who were finalists for the famous first flight.

"There are lots of answers why I want to be the first man in space, but a short answer would be this: The flight obviously is a challenge and I feel that the more severe challenge will occur on the first flight and I signed up to accept this challenge," he said before his selection from the trio in early 1961.

Poland to spend \$2.3b. on upgrading its army

By MARCIN GRAJEWSKI

WARSAW (Reuters) - Poland will spend more than eight billion zlotys (\$2.3 billion) by 2003 to upgrade its armed forces to NATO standards. Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz said yesterday.

The five-year programme, mainly to upgrade communications, command-and-control systems and air defences, is the key part of a 40-billion-zloty scheme to trim and modernize the armed forces in the next 15 years, Onyszkiewicz said.

Poland, along with the Czech Republic and Hungary, is set to join the western defence alliance next spring.

"By 2003 we want to spend more than eight billion zlotys on implementing goals agreed with NATO," Onyszkiewicz said. "This includes buying com-

munal systems with NATO." He brushed aside concerns that Poland's obsolete defence equipment and the lack of knowledge of English among high-ranking officers, mostly trained during pre-1989 communist rule, impaired the country's fitness to join NATO.

Onyszkiewicz said the center-right coalition, which took over from a government of ex-communists last year, had retained key elements of its predecessor's 15-year plan for modernizing the Warsaw Pact-era military.

"Our philosophy continues to be... smaller armed forces, but better trained and equipped," he said.

Under the programme, military personnel are to be cut from the current 240,000 to some 180,000 in about five years. The proportion of professional servicemen and women will rise to around 50 percent from the current 35%.

Germany lost Nazi gold files, report says

BONN (Reuters) - Files detailing gold the Nazis looted from Auschwitz and other death camp victims disappeared without trace and were possibly destroyed as late as the 1970s, according to an official report obtained yesterday.

The report was compiled by Germany's Federal Archive, with help from the Bundesbank, after Washington asked Bonn to shed more light on recent revelations about the Nazis' wartime gold trade, a spokeswoman for the Interior Ministry said.

It was due to be released in the next few weeks, she said.

The 26 lost folders, known as the Melmer files after the SS officer responsible for tallying up how much gold was plundered from Jews exterminated in concentration camps, could have provided a basis for Holocaust victims' claims for damages against German and Swiss banks.

"Their disappearance could be an embarrassment to the German government and a setback to its post-war efforts to come to terms with its Nazi legacy."

"With increasing displeasure it became clear that the 26 Melmer folders that were not microfilmed had disappeared without trace," the report concludes.

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The Allies made no copies of the Melmer files - only a few pages of which have survived and were included in the books.

"The result is disappointing," the report said.

"The [Reichsbank] precious metals department documents were split up by the Bank Deutscher Laender by the Allies, was still unclear, the report said.

Thoms died in 1977 and several missing documents were found among his papers, it said.

It also mentioned the last liquidator of the Reichsbank, Ulrich Benckert, 86, who apparently in 1975 had copies of receipts of gold delivered from camps. The copies had gone missing by the following year.

The report said he was too ill to be questioned.

The compilers of the report said they had confined their research

to German sources, but that documents in Moscow archives dating back to the post-war Soviet military administration in Germany might shed some more light.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Archive in Berlin confirmed the leaked report was authentic but said a few minor changes might be made before its official release.

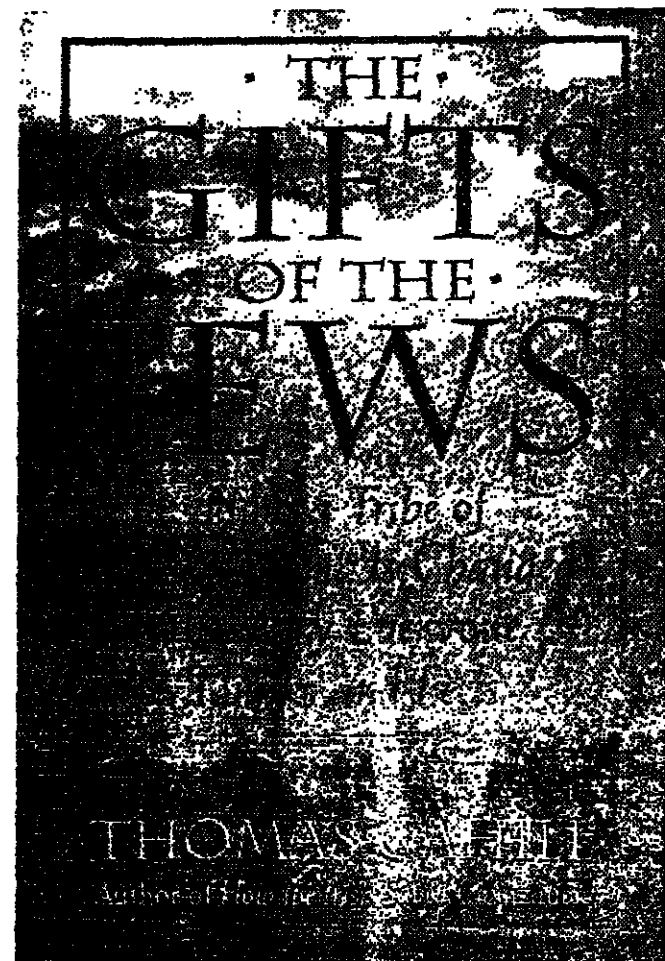
A report commissioned by the Swiss government showed that Nazi Germany took \$146 million in gold, valued at \$1.3 billion at today's prices, from Holocaust victims and other individuals.

Of this between \$2.5 million and \$4.0 million was seized from inmates of Auschwitz and other death camps in eastern Europe.

The Nazis plundered another \$475 million in gold from central banks of occupied countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Hungary and Italy, it said.

N.Y TIMES BESTSELLER LIST!!!

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Time of his life

SEINLANGUAGE by Jerry Seinfeld. New York, Bantam Books. 180 pp. \$6.50.

By Leslie Cohen

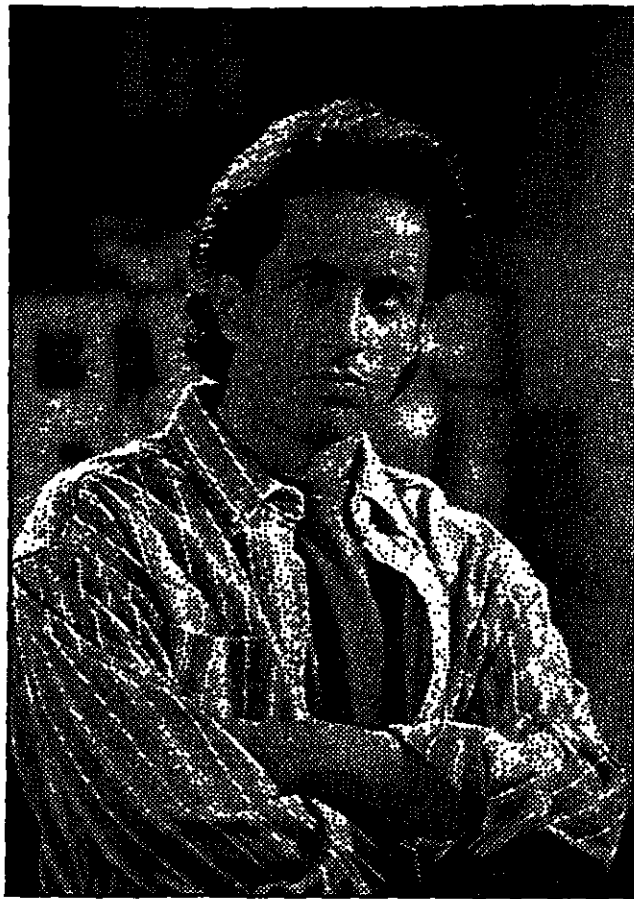
Jerry Seinfeld's book is nothing like a memoir. It's more like a midrash on the boredom of earthly existence. Seinfeld writes: "The whole reason you watch a TV show is because it ends. If I wanted a long, boring story with no point to it, I've got my life."

But, judging from the profusion of interviews and articles that have appeared in conjunction with the final Seinfeld show, I suspect he's exaggerating when he talks about his humdrum life. Unfortunately, for those who were hoping for revelations, *SeinLanguage* gives away no biographical secrets.

Seinfeld is a maniac about the mundane; he's totally hung up on making comical commentary about the ordinary objects in our everyday landscape. He wades through the boring routines of daily life, making us laugh over dozens of trivial events that we normally take for granted. For example, have you ever noticed that you can measure distance by time? "How far away is that place?" Seinfeld asks. The answer is: "About twenty minutes." But it doesn't work the other way around. You can't ask, "When do you get off work?" and have the other person answer, "About three miles." I have to admit that I've never before considered this particular aspect of English linguistics.

While everything down to earth is intensely attractive to Seinfeld, the exotic and the faraway hold little allure for him. He speculates very briefly about the extinction of the dinosaurs, saying: "Maybe comets killed the dinosaurs, maybe they tripped and fell. What's the difference? We'll never know. We couldn't solve the Kennedy Assassination, we had films of that. Good luck with the Stegosaurus." Judging by the amount of space allotted to them, he's frankly more interested in shopping malls, CD players, the Sunday paper and M & M's.

Seinfeld's personality on paper comes across as pleasant and friendly — just like his screen image. One of his chief concerns is what he calls "paldom." He writes: "Friends are the DNA of society. They are the basic building blocks of life." He goes on to say that life would be better if it was more like making a movie. "You mess up, somebody just walks on the set and stops the whole shoot." If you tell someone, "Boy, you look pregnant, are you?" the director comes out and yells, "Cut, cut, cut, that's not going to work at all. Walk out the door, come back in, let's take this whole scene again." As for being single, Seinfeld says: "I have not been to jail. But I think about jail a lot... Because I live alone anyway, it's kind of the same. I'm in solitary." Concerning the intricate rules of dating, Seinfeld suggests establishing "some kind of pre-date ritual. Maybe first meet up in one of those rooms where you visit prisoners. You have that glass between you. You talk on the



Comedian Jerry Seinfeld gives away no biographical secrets in *'SeinLanguage.'*

phones. See how that goes before you attempt an actual date... if you're not comfortable at any point, you just signal to the guard and they take the other person away."

Seinfeld's helpful household hints should be published in *Good Housekeeping*. "I consider myself a master life efficiency expert... When I finish with my cereal, I put the bowl away with the spoon in it... How often am I going to use that bowl and not need the spoon that goes with it? I'll worry about that situation when I'm faced with it."

Seinfeld doesn't cook because it's too time-consuming. His major home-cooking concern is the size of the plate he uses. He explains: "...if I use too big a plate... I'll have to wash untold plates. I hate to wash part of a plate that didn't have food on it. This is really just throwing your life away. I'm wetting it, soaping it up, rinsing, drying it. It didn't even do anything. These are the things that add up and later in life make you say, 'Where did all the time go?' I couldn't agree more. Finally, Seinfeld knows precisely how seriously to take himself, and tells the reader on page one: "I love bookstores... I like the way [they] break down into fiction and nonfiction. In other words, these people are lying, and these people are telling the truth. That's the way the world should be." *SeinLanguage* begins with the following conversation: "Hi, I'm Jerry Seinfeld. I'm fiction." "I know." "How did you know?" "Because I'm nonfiction." It's funny how truth sneaks onto the fiction shelf.

When canaries sing and fly

GANGBUSTERS: The Destruction of America's Last Mafia Dynasty by Ernest Volkman. Faber and Faber. 256 pp. \$24.95.

By David W. Marston

Former Gambino family crime boss John Gotti, a.k.a. the "Teflon Don," is doing life without possibility of parole at hard-time Marion Federal Penitentiary, which sums up how far the godfathers have fallen. But justice was a long time coming. For decades, the FBI's war on organized crime (OC) consisted of rounding up the usual suspects (mainly gamblers and numbers writers) and chalking up stats.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's annual OC arrest statistics always went up. OC was not inconvenienced.

Then three things happened: Hoover died, Congress passed the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) statute. And a new generation of heretical, street-savvy agents, led by Detroit SAC (Special Agent in Charge) Neil J. Welch, became convinced they could use the RICO statute, together with state-of-the-art surveillance techniques, to decimate the major mob families. Barely a decade later, they had.

By now, this success story is well known, and aspects of Ernest Volkman's new book, *Gangbusters*, have been previously reported.

Most notably, Jules Bonovonta's 1996 book *The Good Guys: How We Turned the FBI 'Round and Finally Broke the Mob* sketched the Mafia-busting RICO revolution from an agent's perspective, with gritty authenticity.

But if Volkman's central thesis is not new, *Gangbusters* nevertheless succeeds, first by detailing exactly how crime got organized in America, and then by providing the most incisive description yet of the real-world reach of Mafia-funded official corruption.



Meyer Lansky

The Americanization of successive waves of Italian immigrants, Volkman contends, ultimately resulted in a criminal organization more reminiscent of General Motors than of its Sicilian "black hand" predecessors. "Road salesmen don't shoot Chevrolet salesmen," Meyer Lansky counseled his fellow crime bosses at a summit in Atlantic City in the wake of Al Capone's disastrous St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

Lansky's message: efficiently organized, La Cosa Nostra would provide plenty of loot for everyone. Once organized, the crime families gushed forth enough cash to corrupt everything they touched, and Volkman, a former prize-winning national correspondent for *Newsday*, details the impact: \$20,000 per week in cash payoffs to Tammany Hall big game; corrupt alliances with union leaders, which allowed the Mafia to control New York's garbage, concrete and construction industries; payoffs to narcotics squad cops so systematic that New York firemen once sought a union contract pay hike to keep parity.

With corruption rampant, any breach of omerta was doubly dangerous.

Volkman recounts how Abraham "Kid Twist" Reles, star killer for Murder Incorporated, tried to avoid the death sentence by cooperating with prosecutors. He needn't have bothered. Under police guard at a Coney Island hotel, Reles was thrown from his window to his death after the police received a \$100,000 bribe from Frank Costello. Reles entered Mafia legend, Volkman notes, as "the canary who could sing, but couldn't fly."

Mixing irresistible cases with well-researched historical narrative, *Gangbusters* delivers. General readers will be interested in Volkman's dynamic picture of organized crime in America.

And for anyone who doubts the book's subtitle, consider: today, while the "Teflon Don" languishes forever in Marion, the man who put him there, mob hitler Sammy "The Bull" Gravano, was last seen promoting his biography. If "The Bull" (who sidestepped his own complicity in 19 murders) can sing and fly, the mob must indeed be dead.

At least for now.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Two ways to look at a nation

ISRAEL AT FIFTY by John Hohenberg. Syracuse, New York, Syracuse University Press. 376pp. \$29.95.

ISRAEL AT FIFTY by Dan Perry and Alfred Ironside. Santa Monica, CA, General Publishing Group. 240pp. \$50.

By Morton I. Teicher

Although these books carry the same title, they are quite different from each other. Hohenberg has written a fairly conventional journalist's account of Israel's history, and his publisher has released it in standard form. By contrast,

Perry and Ironside have produced a photo history in coffee table size (10" x 11") with 200 black and white and color pictures.

Hohenberg was a reporter who covered Israel from its inception and who later became a professor of journalism at Columbia University. He has drawn on his own experience, including several trips to Israel, as well as on other newspaper accounts, memoirs and various writings on Israel. His book reveals the bias of the journalist towards the dramatic events that make news. For Israel, this means focusing on its wars and its involvement in peace-making efforts. Some of the chapter headings demonstrate his interest: "War with

"Egypt," "Israel Fights for Life," "Dayan's War," "Israel Strikes Back," "Camp David I and II," "War on Terrorism," "Conflict with Iraq," "The Oslo Process," "Bombs in Jerusalem," and "The Trials of Peace."

Hohenberg's narrative suggests that there is little more to Israel's past 50 years than one war after another, interspersed with efforts to find peace. He pays little attention to the country's remarkable economic achievements or to the internal tensions that may ultimately prove more troublesome than fighting the Arabs. This superficial book tells as much about what makes news to a journalist as it does about Israel's history.

By contrast, Perry and Ironside have made excellent use of magnificent photos, well-selected quotations and a fine narrative to present an in-depth account of Israel's first 50 years. They have not neglected the wars in which Israel has been engaged, but they have also told about bringing in Jews from all over the world and about building a nation. Photos of Israel's leaders are presented along with insightful comments about their contributions and their difficulties. Photos of ordinary people are provided, as well as scenes from Israel's majestic landscape. This splendid book is a fitting tribute to Israel's 50th anniversary.

BOOK BYTES

The life of Britain's most celebrated historical novelist, Catherine Cookson, who died in June, is still making headlines in the English press. The first, cruel half of her 91 years was mirrored in the works of the second half, complete with the happy ending.

Cookson was born in 1906, the fatherless child of an alcoholic woman she believed for years to be her sister. She was raised in poverty by her grandmother, who died when Catherine was 11. From early childhood, she was dogged by a rare hereditary blood condition. As an adult, she bled from the tongue and other organs and required regular transfusions.

Her formal education finished at age 13. However, by then she had already shown a talent for story writing. Her working life began in domestic service. In the 1920s she became a laundry checker in a workhouse, where she saw scenes of abject despair she was never to forget. Eventually, through long hours of hard labor, she managed to scrape together enough money to buy a crumbling 15-room house.

She met Tom Cookson in 1936. He kissed her on their first date, and she later wrote, "I knew at that moment it was right." They married in 1940. Their first child was stillborn, and over the next four years Catherine suffered three more miscarriages. Her inherited disease was the cause of her problems. Cookson fell into a decade of severe depression, which she called her "nightmare."

Then, in 1949, when was 43, she wrote her first novel, *Kate Hamman*, which earned her £100. The rest, as they say, was history. Honored with an OBE in 1960, she made it in 1993 (though none of her 100 books won major prizes), she was a millionaire many times over.

Reports say she could not give her money away fast enough to good causes. Once, when she donated a particularly large sum, she said, "I know what poverty is. I know what it is like to have nothing."

BEGINNING with The Castle, Schocken Books is bringing out a new series of Franz Kafka's fiction and correspondence. The occasion for reviving the fortunes of the Czech Jewish writer are all new English translations that scholars believe will transform the understanding of one of the 20th century's great iconoclasts. The new English version of *The Castle* is based on the critical 1982 German edition, and is the culmination of a 20-year project to restore Kafka's manuscripts to the author's original. The previous English translations from the German by Edwin and Willa Muir, done in the 1930s and first published in 1946, attempted to place Kafka's writings in the 19th century.

THIS YEAR'S IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the world's richest book prize worth 100,000 Irish pounds (\$141,400), went to Herta and Paul Amirson's novel *The Land of Green Plums* (Granta). The Romanian-born Muller, who refused to collaborate with the Securitate state police, was stripped of her teaching position and ultimately exiled to Germany. Her book is about fear and resistance under the Ceausescu regime.

US-born Carol Shields's novel *Larry's Party* (Fourth Estate) won the £30,000 (£48,900) Orange Prize for Fiction. Shields, whose book was short-listed for the Booker Prize, said that what she felt on capturing the Orange and a "Bessie" trophy was "indescribable."

David Brunner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Point of Origin by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam \$25.95) Dr. Kay Scarpetta battles an old enemy, a serial killer who has escaped.
2. I Know This Much Is True by Wally Lamb. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$27.50) A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic identical twin and face the nightmares of their family.
3. The Kluge and I by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$17.95) A woman believes she has found Mr. Right, a hit-expert, then is amazed to meet his clone.
4. Summer Sisters by Judy Blume. (Delacorte \$21.95) Two young women from very different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
5. Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding. (Viking \$22.95) A year in the life of a thirty-something female.
6. Low Country by Anne Rivers Siddons. (HarperCollins \$25) A South Carolina woman's life reaches a crisis when her husband considers turning her inherited island into a resort.
7. A Widow for One Year by John Irving. (Random House \$27.95) A look at the complex emotional life of a writer and single mother.
8. Message in a Bottle by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$20) After finding a seaborne bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.
9. Unspeakable by Sandra Brown. (Warner \$25) A psychotic killer, returning to his Texas hometown to wreak vengeance, uses a troubled widow as his pawn.
10. The Eleventh Commandment by Jeffrey Archer. (HarperCollins \$25) A CIA officer contends with a new enemy, the director of central intelligence.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. A Pirate Looks at Fifty by Jimmy Buffett. (Random House \$24.95) While traveling from the Florida Keys to the Amazon, the singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
2. Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
3. A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. (Broadway \$25) A journalist finds beauty and humor while hiking the Appalachian trail.
4. A Monk Swimming by Melchior McCourt. (Hyperion \$23.95) The writer and actor (and brother of Frank McCourt) recalls his life in America and Ireland.
5. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24) An Irish-American writer recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
6. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22) The lives of wealthy Americans disclose that they have seven characteristics in common.
7. Titan by Ron Chernow. (Random House \$30) The life of John D. Rockefeller Sr.
8. Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea by Gary Kinder. (Atlantic Monthly \$27.50) An account of the wreck of a sidewheeler off the Carolina coast in 1857 and the efforts of a group to recover its treasure in 1989.
9. We Are Our Mothers' Daughters by Cokie Roberts. (Morrow \$19.95) The television news anchor's reflections on women in politics and business and as mothers, wives, sisters and friends.
10. The Gifts of the Jews by Thomas Cahill. (Doubleday \$23.50) What Western civilization owes an ancient tribe.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Rising Tides by Nora Roberts. (Jove \$7.50) Returning to his home on the Maryland shore, a man finds a new love.
2. Unnatural Exposure by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkley \$7.99) Dr. Kay Scarpetta contends with a killer who uses a snail-like virus and cyberspace tricks.
3. Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50) Three generations of Southern women.
4. Orphans: Butterfly and Crystal by V.C. Andrews. (Pocket \$3.99) A troubled orphan is adopted by a couple who hope she will become a ballerina.
5. She's Come Undone by Wally Lamb. (Pocket \$7.99) A woman's harrowing progress from youth to middle age.
6. The Matarese Connection by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam \$7.99) A CIA officer struggles to thwart the return of an international cabal.
7. The Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans. (Dell \$7.50) A woman seeks solace for her daughter and their horse from a wrangler.
8. Fat Tuesday by Sandra Brown. (Warner \$7.99) A cop and a sinister attorney's wife go on a tear in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.
9. The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99) A WWII veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
10. The Best Laid Plans by Sidney Sheldon. (Warner \$7.99) The relationship between a power-hungry governor and a beautiful woman determined to wreak revenge.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Harper Paperbacks \$5.99) The story of the no-nonsense 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
2. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
3. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13) A celebration of life in the Italian countryside by an American poet.
4. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95) A young man's obsession with the wilderness has a tragic end in Alaska.
5. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
6. Personal History by Katharine Graham. (Vintage \$15) The autobiography of the former publisher of The Washington Post.
7. A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
8. Walt Tm Next Year by Doris Kearns Goodwin. (Touchstone \$8.95) Recollections of a 50s girlfriend on Long Island, in the orbit of the Brooklyn Dodgers.
9. Brain Droppings by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$10.95) Comments on life by the stand-up comedian.
10. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson. (Vintage \$11) The gonzo journalist's 1971 account of a drug-addled road trip.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
2. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
3. Protein Power by Michael R. Eades. (Bantam \$6.50) Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.
4. The Beanie Baby Handbook 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95) A guide.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Sugar Busters by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Bantam \$22) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.
2. Mers and Venus Starting Over by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25) Counsel for men and women following a breakup, divorce, or the loss of a loved one.
3. Martin Luther's Total Health Makeover by Martin Luther with Laura Morton. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$24) Promoting fitness and vitality.
4. The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23) Ways to manage your money now and in the future.

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Find a framework

Yesterday the Knesset took the right step at the right time. By a vote of 65 to 32, the Knesset passed in a preliminary reading a bill requiring a special majority and a referendum before giving up any territory governed by Israeli law.

The new law would apply if, as part of a future peace agreement, Israel were to relinquish parts of the Golan Heights, eastern Jerusalem, or even parts of pre-1967 Israel.

The measure, which was sponsored by MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way), was strongly opposed by Meretz chairman Yossi Sarid, Labor MK Yossi Beilin, and Deputy Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss (Labor), on the grounds that it would hamper the peace process, particularly the prospects for negotiations with Syria.

The real effect of yesterday's Knesset action, however, is to retract a vote of a year ago in which the Knesset passed on a preliminary reading a stronger measure sponsored by Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet) that would have required an 80-vote majority for the same territorial concessions. The Harel bill requires only a 61-vote majority. The Zandberg bill passed 43 to 40 last July, after some government ministers, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, voted for it despite a government decision to oppose the bill.

At that time, Netanyahu attempted to minimize the diplomatic damage of his vote — which, not surprisingly, put a damper on possible negotiations with Syria — by pledging to work to bring down the required majority to 61, as in the Harel bill. In the end, Harel's bill was supported by both the coalition and by senior Labor MKs, such as Ehud Barak, Uzi Baram and Haim Ramon.

Before the vote, Meretz members threatened a break with Labor if that party supported the bill, accusing Labor of becoming "Likud B." In fact, the Labor leadership's votes did reflect a change from the Rabin/Peres era, in which passing historic agreements by a plurality, rather than an absolute majority, was not considered a sin.

The old Labor, and current Meretz, mentality — that the peace process must be advanced regardless of how it divides the Israeli people — is a dangerous one, and a primary reason why Labor lost the last elections.

While it is true that the political leadership must not become paralyzed by divisions among the people, the attitude that such divisions do not matter is a damaging form of elitism. The message sent by acting as if division

does not matter is that the other side is not just wrong, but illegitimate.

Israel is a young democracy, and the culture of recognizing an opponent's legitimacy is still immature on both sides of the spectrum. By accentuating the importance of at least a limited consensus, the just-passed bill helps inculcate the mores of democracy, not just its mechanics.

At the same time, it is disturbing that once again precedents are being set by particular political circumstances, without consideration of their implications for the system as a whole.

There is currently no framework providing for either special majorities or referendums. Even though Israel has no constitution, the circumstances under which these extraordinary mechanisms are brought into play should be decided according to general principles, not stumbled upon in the heat of the moment.

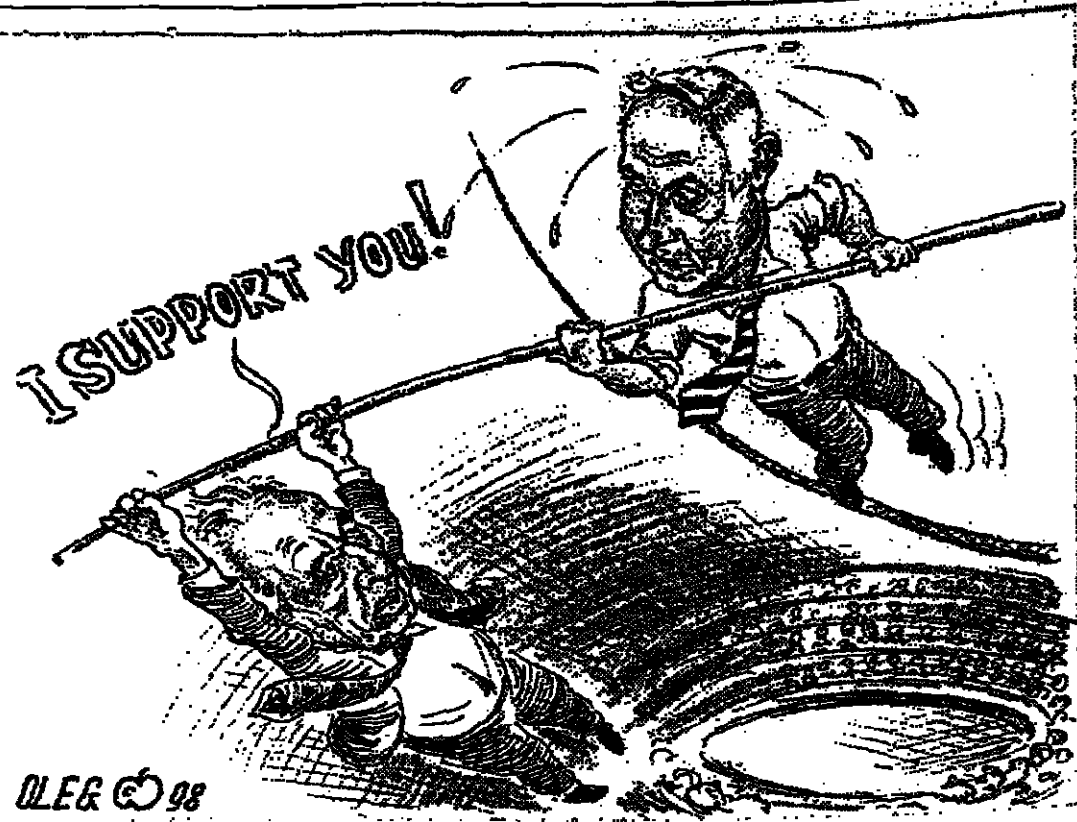
First Yitzhak Rabin raised the idea of a referendum regarding the Golan; then Netanyahu toyed with a referendum over the still-unfinished redeployment package. Perhaps the question of ceding territory is an appropriate one for a referendum, along with other decisions of historic importance, such as ratifying a constitution or a peace agreement.

Fundamentally, however, referendums are the deliberate short-circuiting of the normal structure of representative government. As a tool they can also embody populism at its worst, and be used to trample individual rights.

The fact that proposals for unusual mechanisms — such as referendums and special majorities — seem to be popping up with increasing frequency indicates that an effort to devise a guiding framework is overdue. In 1995, a special committee was formed to determine what legal changes would be needed to provide for the referendum proposed by Rabin regarding the Golan Heights. The committee found that an amendment to a basic law would be required.

This is all well and good, but even the mechanism for amending basic laws has not been established. Supreme Court President Aharon Barak has proposed that a new basic law be passed that would "determine how basic laws are adopted by the Knesset, and what majority is needed to change a basic law."

It is time for the Knesset to take up such fundamental questions on a substantive basis, rather than letting random political expediency decide the structure of Israeli democracy.



Giving in

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

The fate of the government hangs in the balance this weekend. The battle for its survival is not being conducted in the corridors of the Knesset, but in phone calls between Jerusalem and China.

When all of the facts emerge, it will surely be remembered as the white flag of Israel's surrender waving over the ancient Wall of China.

The widespread claims made in the local media, that Netanyahu is holding secret talks with the Syrians and is ready to surrender the Golan Heights, are merely a by-product of the main business at hand: the decision already taken in Jerusalem concerning the long-simmering peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

It was a decision taken by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu without the approval of his government, his cabinet or even his inner cabinet, with the exception of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The protagonists in this drama are Netanyahu and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, currently touring China as a guest of the Beijing authorities. The telephone lines between the two countries have been buzzing virtually nonstop as a result of what this column has discovered is the total collapse of Netanyahu's policy demanding that the Palestinians conform to their agreements inherent in the Oslo Accords, as well as promises made at the time of the signing of the Hebron agreement.

Our information is that Netanyahu had given in lock, stock and barrel, to the demands of the US administration and the PLO to surrender 13.1% of additional territory to Yasser Arafat, plus another one percent later.

None of the premier's "reciprocal demands" have been accepted by the Palestinians. These include the insistence that the PLO covenant calling for the annihilation of Israel be annulled by the full Palestinian National Council; that 30 killers of Israelis (some serving in Arafat's paramilitary groups) be arrested and extradited to Israel to stand trial for murder; and that Arafat's militia groups be reduced to the number stipulated by Oslo.

As it was put succinctly to us: "This is total surrender. Netanyahu

is giving everything and getting nothing in return. The white flag is being raised by Netanyahu. Sure, there will be a smooth public relations exercise, claiming that the US will ensure Arafat will curb terrorism and respond positively to the other demands made by the Israeli premier.

"There will be a stream of papers issued by the White House promising much. But all will be hot air. It is a total surrender — a reversal of everything that Netanyahu has been proclaiming publicly, radiating his aura of deep sincerity that he will stand firm in the interests of Israel's security."

The brutal reality will be felt immediately by the Israelis who live in at least 18 settlements which will be enclosed in territory surrounded by Arafat's armed militia. Netanyahu's decision to cave in to the pressure, which has been relentless in recent months, has the backing of his defense minister.

The man leading the opposition to Netanyahu's fateful decision is Sharon who, on the eve of his departure for China, made plain that the government will not survive no confidence motions if he goes ahead with his present policy of surrender to Yasser Arafat.

Sharon told Netanyahu from Beijing, in one of many phone calls between them: "I want this government to continue. But if you do not remain faithful to Eretz Yisrael you will lose your last chance of leading the nation."

During the past few days, Sharon has contacted one after another of his fellow cabinet ministers and leaders of the national camp warning of the shock they are about to face.

Netanyahu has carefully chosen his timing about revealing his decision prior to next Wednesday — the final day before the Knesset breaks up for its three-month summer recess. We were told: "He's aware of the outcry from the very people who voted him into power, but he's banking on their tempers cooling during the coming 90 days. After reflection, they will have time to ponder surrendering their cushy jobs, the chauffeured cars, and other perks of high office. They

will find a way for their consciences to come to terms with a decision which was inevitable."

"WHAT choice do they have?" is the driving force of his policy. "If they vote against me in a no-confidence motion they will ensure that Barak will become the next prime minister, leading a Labor government. How will that help their cause?"

Determined to force Netanyahu to think again, Sharon has refused to be soft-soaped by the prime minister's honeyed words from Jerusalem.

Repeatedly Sharon has cut him short and replied, "Your government will fall when the Knesset reconvenes if you continue with you folly. Your surrender of land vital to Israel's security is beyond politics. You will no longer be prime minister."

Another sign of the fierce determination to fight Netanyahu, even if it means the collapse of the government, came this week when Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan announced that if Netanyahu surrenders 13.1 percent of territory, he will promptly resign.

The Labor Party has got wind of what Netanyahu has in mind. Barak and his allies have postponed preliminary readings on two bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset, until next Wednesday. Their hope is that Netanyahu will make public his surrender on the issue of withdrawal. This might give them more muscle to have the motions passed with the help of outraged right-wing MKs.

What lies behind Netanyahu's sudden decision to carry out his dramatic political about-face? It is clear from government insiders that he is alarmed by the worldwide criticism of his policies. He is also convinced that he can be persuasive enough and has the charm to swing support behind him no matter what he does. And above all, he is convinced that by presenting a "sincere" front, he will win enough votes no matter when new elections are held.

Perhaps he does not know the ancient Chinese proverb: "To show weakness in the shadow of the Great Wall of China will result in deep woe and failure."

The View From the East

DAQUD KUTTAB

(Mis)communicating

The International Communication Association is holding its 48th annual conference at the Renaissance hotel in Jerusalem this week. The title of the conference is (Mis)communicating across boundaries.

Below is my list of the causes for the lack of communication across the Palestine-Israel divide, especially as far as the media is concerned.

Communication can't take place if boundaries are not recognized. Israelis and Palestinians are unable to enjoy genuine communication if there are no recognized boundaries between them. Israel has consistently refused to recognize Palestine, or the existence of a marker between the State of Israel and the Palestinian areas under Israeli military occupation. To understand this concept, all you have to do is pick up a tourist map or check out the weather in any of the papers or at the end of the television news.

Communication requires mutual recognition and respect. Genuine and true communication can't take place without each group recognizing, respecting and accepting the other side as an equal.

The most basic of all rights — the right of self-determination for Palestinians — has been consistently denied by Israel. Additionally, Israelis treat Palestinians in a demeaning way, both generally and individually. You can see this in the

way Palestinian lands are taken, homes are destroyed, or how individual Palestinians are treated at airports, crossing points, and so on.

Communication requires equal opportunities. Although the Israeli media is very powerful, Palestinians are not able to properly communicate through their media. Palestinian journalists (like all Palestinians) are not allowed to travel into Israel without a permit — not much different from the pass system in the apartheid days of South Africa.

Even journalists with permits are not allowed to travel into Jerusalem and Israel in their own cars. Ironically, Israelis who are allowed to travel into the Palestinian areas, rarely take up that opportunity.

Communication needs the will to understand the Other. Danny Rubinstein, the veteran Israeli journalist, noted in a session about the Israeli and Palestinian press that while the Palestinian press regularly translates Hebrew articles, the Hebrew press never reciprocates.

In trying to explain this, he and other Israelis explained that Israelis are simply not interested in what is going on in the Palestinian areas. This is a common occurrence in conflicts between the powerful and the weak. The underdog is always trying to learn and understand the party that is oppressing him, the opposite is never the case.

Communications demands action. For communication to be credible, those communicating must prove they mean what they say. Otherwise, they fall into the pitfall of giving the impression that everything is OK.

During the civil rights movement in the United States, many whites who supported and identified with blacks did not make do with just communicating with blacks. They followed it up by going to the south and living with blacks as a way of expressing their support.

Only in the intifada did a group of Israelis spend a night in a West Bank town, under the slogan "let us break bread not break bones." The Christian Peace Team — a group of American pacifists — lives in Hebron as a genuine testimony of their identification with, and support for the oppressed Palestinians. They hold sit-ins at homes destined for demolition and help Palestinians rebuild their homes. Aside from these examples, no Israeli or international group has taken up similar, active supportive stands.

For communication to succeed, and in order to avoid miscommunication across boundaries, a different approach is needed. Communication must be seen as a way of learning rather than a way of jamming thoughts from the other side. It can't, and shouldn't be, a reflection of the balance of power.

Looking away

HELEN SCHARV MOTRO

While Israeli bulldozers destroy the homes of some families, others, more fortunate by accident of birth, are busy constructing theirs. Newly married Dana is among the lucky ones. Dana takes pride in her progressive ideas. When she hears of another house demolition on the news she shakes her head. But one thing Dana has neglected: she has not permitted outrage at injustice touch her real life. Too many of us resemble her, isolating our lifestyle from our convictions.

As Dana and her husband stride across their building site, planning the garden, deciding which carpenter should install their kitchen, they face all the familiar problems — the unforeseen expenses, the delays, the last-minute decisions they were unaware they would be called upon to make.

One fear never crossed Dana's mind: that she would be denied the right to build altogether. That might have happened to her grandparents in Europe, but that was long ago.

Yet when Dana opens the newspaper over breakfast these days, before she goes to meet with her contractor, she may well read about Mrs. Atrash, mother of 10, whose West Bank house has been demolished three times by Dana's countrymen.

Israeli authorities tore down the Atrash house because it lacked a permit. Not that the Atrash family set out to circumvent the regulations. They applied for a construction permit for each house they built. And each time permission was denied. The courts have held that the Atrashes failed to prove ownership of the plots upon which they seek to build. So the demolitions were legal.

After all, Israel is a society of laws, even in the lands it occupies. A citizen's letter of protest addressed to the prime minister last month evoked the following stock response issued by his

Last month, Israel razed 23 houses in the West Bank

office: "The state is required to go through a complex legal process weighted with checks and balances before a house can be demolished."

Yet in some surrealistic way, these families, often living on their ancestral lands, cannot meet the legal ownership criteria.

THE Atrash family is not alone. The civil administration in the West Bank admits to destroying over 80 permitless houses so far this year, and 171 last. In June alone, 23 dwellings were razed, and the pace continues in July.

These newly homeless may well be pawns in the land struggle for the borders to be hacked out when the delegates of the Palestinians, the Israelis and their superpower nannies finally meet.

But as the diplomats gather around rosewood tables in five-star hotels, or sip cocktails in ambassadors' palatial homes, the Atrash family will continue to dine without a roof upon splintered furniture.

While an Israeli woman bemoans going through "the hell of renovations," Mrs. Atrash speaks out from atop the bleak rubble of her life. "All we want to do is to live in peace and security like they do in Tel Aviv. Like the Israelis and their children."

Demolitions are not carried out in secret, nor under cover of night. Israeli and foreign press report them regularly, printing photos of families bleakly crouched upon their broken beams.

Yet there is no outcry. The bulldozers arouse little public opposition. Demolitions are not discussed in cafes, in office corridors or in living rooms. On peoples' minds are rumors of *Peyton Place* within judicial chambers, or the side effects of Viagra. If questioned, the person on the street would most likely shrug and say, "But they had no permit."

Of course people's first concern is — and ought to be — their own lives. Watching soccer, planning vacations, and yes, building their dream house. But we must find a way to integrate the common place within the larger moral picture.

If the Prime Minister's Office receives thousands of protest letters, that might prompt a policy reevaluation instead of a hackneyed pro forma response. Dana — and the rest of us — could make it a point to speak out, each in her own way.

Driving down the highway my car radio boomed Bob Dylan singing out his old song: "How many times can a man look away and pretend that he just doesn't see? Are we guilty by omission for living our lives obliviously? Guilty for looking away, time and again, from unrelenting injustice?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHEN WILL WE LEARN?

Sir, — David Kimche seems to have learned but one "Lesson of Evian" (July 8). The real lesson we were all taught only entered our consciousness after the Holocaust. For nobody, Jew or Gentile could imagine the evil that would befall the Jews of Europe.

There was, however, another lesson that fateful event taught the Jews: the total powerlessness of the Jews. Of the 22 private organizations, the vast majority of which were Jewish, it was impossible to form a united front.

These organizations were represented by the leaders of European and Palestinian Jewry. To name but a few: Viscount Samuel, Arthur Ruppin, Golda Meyerson (Meir) and Nahum

Goldmann.

Sadly, unity did not prevail among them and they did not speak with one voice. Even after the bitter lesson of the Holocaust was learned, all the efforts to unify Jewish organizations, Dr. Goldmann only succeeded twice: the formation of the Claims Conference and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (only for the USA). After 50 years of the State of Israel, Jewry still does not speak with one voice. The Herzlian principle "We are a people — one people" still has not sunk into our consciousness.

DR. ELIZABETH E. EPLER
Jerusalem.

FINAL STATUS NOW

Sir, — What's the point of gobbling over a second withdrawal from the territories? Besides the continued refusal by the PA to honor agreements, their spokesmen pronounce that without the return of refugees and Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state, there will be no peace, withdrawals notwithstanding.

Under the circumstances, now is the time for our government to declare that the Oslo and Hebron accords have been compromised and negotiations on a final status is the only remaining and realistic option.

MILTON J. KRAMER
Arad.

MANDATORY AIDS TESTING

Sir, — The picture of an AIDS baby (July 19) is totally preventable in Israel if only the government would institute mandatory testing for AIDS in all pregnant women.

The drug programs now available here prevent virtually all newborns from being infected from their HIV seropositive mothers, but this can only be achieved if the mothers' HIV serological status is known so that therapy can be instituted.

Israel has been mandatorily testing certain refugee groups from high AIDS prevalence regions for years, including all pregnant women, but refuses to mandatori-

ly test those pregnant women in the general population where their HIV status remains unknown.

Perhaps the Ministry of Health should begin realizing that although Israel is currently a country of low AIDS incidence, its policy of not testing all pregnant women because it is not cost effective is shortsighted and potentially dangerous by avoiding the prevention of AIDS in newborns.

SANFORD F. KUVIN, M.D.
Chairman of the International Board,
The Kuvin Center
Jerusalem.

THREE CHEERS

Sir, — Three cheers and bravo to Tiberias Judge Ron Shapiro! (Earthly concerns, July 12) D'vora Ben-Shani writes that "Judge Shapiro ruled that Nof Kinerot, the newly built housing complex between Kosh Pina and Safed, was to remain unoccupied 'until proper facilities for sewage treatment were implemented.'" By vigorous enforcement of existing law and stringent accountability, the scourge of pollution can be greatly reduced.

ELI RUDEN
Ra'anana.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 23, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported the arrival of a 33,000-ton S.S. *Roma*, the first steamer of this size to enter the new Haifa Harbor. The ship sailed under her own steam and was moored safely to the breakwater.

50 years ago: On July 23, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported on

the reopening of the Haifa Refineries. The plant had suspended work on December 31, 1947, when 41 Jewish workers were murdered by Arabs. Israel's High Court of Justice was chosen by the Provisional Council of Government, with Dr. Moshe Smoira as chief justice.

25 years ago: On July 23, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that some 1,500 families in the Beit Hanina area of North Jerusalem had been sweating through the worst heat wave of the year without water for five days or more.

Alexander Zvielli

Weekender

A walk on the wild side

Actor and producer Kevin Bacon doesn't take his latest film, 'Wild Things,' too seriously

By DAVID S. COHEN

Kevin Bacon is no wild man, but he gets a kind of wicked thrill when he goes to see his new movie, *Wild Things*. You might think he enjoys watching the plot, the beautiful girls, the suspense, or even Bill Murray. You might think that, but no, he has his eye on something else.

"It's fun for me now to sit back and watch an audience which really doesn't know what to expect," says the veteran actor. "There's a lot of fun in that. In a way, it's a neat, because people are not sure what they're supposed to be thinking and feeling. They kind of go 'Am I allowed to laugh at this at all? Or is this just like so bad? Are they serious?'"

On the other side of it is that it creates inherent problems in making the picture. I mean, I almost want to put a disclaimer on the poster that says 'We don't take this too seriously, so we hope that you don't either, you know?'"

Wild Things follows the story of a blue Bay high-school guidance counselor Sam Lombardo (Bacon), who is accused of rape by one of his students, lovely rich girl Kelly Van Ryan (Denise Richards). Sam seems doomed when punky girl from the wrong side of the tracks Suzie Toller (Campbell) comes forward with a second rape charge of her own.

But local detective Ray Duquette (Bacon) grows suspicious of the girls and it soon becomes clear that none of these people are quite what they appear to be.



After 'important' films like 'JFK' and dramas like 'Diner,' Kevin Bacon welcomed his new movie's change of pace.

...pops up along the way Lombardo's sleazy defense lawyer, played by Daphne Rubin-Vega, adds some heat of her own as Duquette's surprisingly sultry detective partner. It is a satiric black comedy with a plot so twisty it's almost absurd. Not until after "The End" appears on screen, during a series of flashbacks, does it finally become clear who has been doing what to whom and why. It is no surprise, then, that the story leaves some people baffled. Most of the time, too, when Bacon is in the script.

"I think that probably a lot of people didn't quite see it," he laughs now. Director James McNaughton saw its promise but was concerned there would be problems with the kind of cast he wanted. "If it's not handled correctly, it could be trash."

Bacon became the first actor to sign on for the project and his name lured the rest of the cast. "He has a great reputation as a performer," explains McNaughton, "and he came in at sort of a critical time for the acting community, that it wasn't a piece of trash, that it was a project of merit."

Bacon earned his reputation in a career that has seen him from teen heartthrob (in *Footloose*) to esteemed character actor (*JFK*, *Apocalypse Now*). He has appeared in so many films (35 and counting since 1978), in so many genres, with so many different people, that he has even spawned a word game: *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon*.

The object is to trace the shortest path through movies from any actor to Bacon. For example, only five degrees separate Bacon from *West War II* pimp queen Betty Grable. Grable was in 1941's

Moon Over Miami with Don Ameche, who was in *Cocoon: The Return with Courtney Cox*, who was in *Scream* with Neve Campbell, who is in *Wild Things* with, well, you get the idea.

"I would work just for work's sake," he recalls of his early career. "I didn't really believe in career planning. I thought 'I'm an actor, I'm supposed to be on the road, town to town, part to part.' So I'd work in big films, small films, first time directors."

"That ultimately did not really serve me very well. I don't think," he muses now. He learned in time that to the kind of work he is proud of, he had to be in "A" movies - high-profile, big budget projects. "And in order to keep yourself attached to A projects," he says without rancor, "you have to be in projects that make money. Everybody's under the gun to be involved in things that are suc-

cessful."

Today, at age 39, he is more focused. He chooses his films carefully. He goes home after a day's shooting to spend time with his wife, actress Kyra Sedgwick (*Phenomenon*) and their two young children. So for this self-described homebody, *Wild Things* was a rare walk on the wild side, complete with ménage à trois, nudity and seductions of every stripe. Bacon has one of the film's most memorable moments: a close-up of his expression as he videotapes an encounter between Richards and Campbell that takes an unexpected turn.

In actual fact, though, he did not get to see the most titillating parts of the scene until dailies. "Matt, as you know, gets to roll around with beautiful women. He gets the cool clothes, and gets to drive that boat, feeding alligators. I get the stupid car and drink out of the water

cooler," he complains in mock chagrin. "That night, I went to the set, and they said 'You know what, we're just going to shoot your coverage first, and you can go home. I didn't see a damn thing.'"

Audiences are seeing quite a different Bacon in the film, when Bacon bares absolutely all, the full frontal nudity. The full frontal nudity was not planned, he admits, but "it just happened to really cut better that way, using that shot. They had to call me up because I had it in my contract, there's no frontal nudity. So obviously I had to sign off on it. Somebody suggested to me that as the executive producer, I might be in the middle of a lawsuit against myself."

The executive producer credit was a reward for his early commitment to the film. It is a common Hollywood practice to give such a credit when an actor's

name helps the producers get their financing. Bacon could have taken the credit and simply shown up to work on his role. That is not his style, though.

"Whether I have a credit like that or not, if I'm going to be in a film and put my name above the title, I like to be involved. I take a lot of responsibility for films that I act in. If they're a success or failure, I take it very much on myself. Sometimes, probably, a little bit too much. But (the producer credit) just kind of dial up the pressure a little bit."

He did not tell the rest of the cast that he was a producer on the film - "I didn't feel that it was appropriate" - but he knew that as one of the senior actors on the set, he had to set an example for his younger co-stars. He knew that Richards and Campbell were exactly the right age to have grown up on videos of *Footloose*. Richards remembers "I was at a slumber party and it was this girl's birthday and her mom took us all to see *Footloose* and we loved Kevin," but Campbell, mercifully, had missed it.

"I think Kevin was kind of happy that I hadn't seen it," laughs Campbell, "because he gets harassed with it so many times, because any wedding he goes to, they always play it and want him to dance. He's over it now."

McNaughton found Bacon "completely undemanding." But Bacon knows exactly what he wants from a director. "Respect. And collaboration. And I like to feel that I'm in the hands of someone who knows what the hell is going on."

That is part of the reason he no longer cares to work with inexperienced young directors. "You feel like you put yourself in somebody's hands, and if they don't know what to do with it, it's annoying," Bacon takes a calm, professional approach to his work, and he likes being on a set where everyone, from stars to stagehands, has a positive attitude. "I don't like to have a feeling of antagonism or tension on the set," he says. "A lot of people do. A lot of actors, you know, they like it when everyone is hot. Or pissed off. I don't know why, but they do."

His attitude made McNaughton's job on *Wild Things* quite a bit easier, and McNaughton knows it. "What's sort of a shame is since he doesn't have an ego and fussing where you really have to pamper him and coddle him and he's such a good actor, that you sort of take him for granted. It's like 'Oh yeah, Kevin's great.'" He jokes that Bacon should do a terrible performance in a movie sometime, because "then everyone will have a means of comparison to see how great everything else he's ever done is."

Bacon's reputation is quite secure, but he has done so many "dark" roles and villains of late that he worries he will be typecast as a bad guy. "I don't really want to be categorized in any way. I'm going to have to start thinking of doing somebody good."

In *Wild Things*, he is a good guy (or is he?) but for Bacon, the film was mostly a change of pace. After so many "important" films like *JFK* and dramas like *Diner*, *Wild Things* is a bit of a lark - for him and the audience. "This is just a movie," he says, "to sit back and let it wash over you."

Adina Hoffman's review of *Wild Things* will appear in Friday's *Time* Out.

Garden party in eastern Jerusalem

By NETA NARAYAN

For many Jerusalem Jews, the summer months are the best time to visit the city. The weather is perfect, the city is beautiful, and the people are friendly. The city is a mix of old and new, and it is a place where you can find everything you need. The city is a place where you can find everything you need.

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Books on my mind

Novelist Naomi Ragen talks about her favorite literature

Author Naomi Ragen looks at the world with inquisitive brown eyes that view life realistically, no holds barred. "We are not here to play 'I'm OK - you're OK,'" she says.

Her three best-selling novels, *Sacrifice of Tamar*, *Soledad*, and *Jephthah's Daughter*, are set in the haredi communities of Israel and New York City. They weave stories around strengths of the community members as well as their failures. She writes about tragic situations, such as abuse or rape, that are not supposed to be part of an Orthodox Jewish life. "Realistically, they are," she comments, while pointing out that even people who want to follow *halacha* to the highest degree, in practice, can fall short of their ideals.



very heartwarming. Moreover, I felt very deeply that the message the author has given is absolutely true - all of us are at the edge."

Petite and articulate, Naomi Ragen is married, a mother of four, and keeps an observant Jewish home in Jerusalem. She grew up in a traditional home in a poor neighborhood of Queens. After her father died when she was seven, she was sent on full scholarship to an expensive, private Orthodox day school in Long Island. "I loved it," she said. "I fell in love with the rituals, the learning, the holidays and songs."

These experiences made a difference in her life and established her belief that the Orthodox way of life leads to a saner, and more enriched existence.

Her next book, *The Ghost of Gracia Mendes*, will be available in September. Ragen speaks about the books that have made an impact on her life like old and dear friends.

1. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
"This is a non-fiction story of probably the worst childhood anyone ever had. Nevertheless, the author renders it with great humanity and humor. He shows you that a person can really survive any kind of childhood. For me, whose younger years were quite miserable, the book was a wonderful revelation. I felt that I wanted to give McCourt a hug at the end of it. It was the only time, after reading a book, that I ever wanted to give the author a hug."

2. *Map of the World* by Jane Hamilton
"This novel is about an everyday occurrence that turns into a terrible tragedy. A woman is watching someone else's child and a small incident takes place that plunges her life into sudden horror. The story of what happens to this woman and how she survives this incident is

3. *Song of a Lark* by Willa Cather
"I love anything written by Willa Cather. *Song of a Lark* is about a young woman who comes from a very non-artistic family and grows up with a great talent to sing. It is a wonderful book about the limitations an artist has to overcome and the great ambition he or she has to have if they want to be outstanding."

4. *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
"This is probably the most moral book you would want to read. Steinbeck's great love of the Bible is evident in anything he writes. There is a saying nowadays, popularized by E. L. Doctorow, that 'If you want a message, go to Western Union.' Nonetheless, I think that any book that does not have any kind of moral basis or moral value is just a piece of junk - garbage. In time it is going to disappear from people's personal and collective memories because a book has to have some great moral basis or otherwise it is worthless."

5. *The Rainbow* by D.H. Lawrence
"I love anything written by D.H. Lawrence, taking into consideration that some of his books are better than others. I think *The Rainbow* is probably one of his masterpieces. It is the story of a yearning, the passionate love between a husband and wife. It is a story of the secret life that men and women have, which has nothing to do with the everyday things that go on in their lives. It is this undercurrent of love between them, which is completely secret to the world, that Lawrence captures perfectly."

- Sarah Hershenson

Hot tips

By DANIELA SCHENDELIN

Tel Aviv

Head is practically humming. Musical events. Tonight the Israel Andalusian Orchestra, with its wild renditions of traditional Sephardi and Eastern music, will be performing at the Mecho Lohit dance festival. Tel: 03-510-5656.

Pop doesn't take a backseat on these hot weekend evenings. Yuval Banai of Machina fame hosts Shlomi Bracha and Mish Ben-Ari, a soloist with the Sheba Group tonight at Jaffa's Gan Hapisa starting at 9:35.

On Monday night, the fabled Nick Cave is performing at the Tel Aviv Cinerama following the recent release of his latest album, so just forget that the weekend ever ended.

All right, so men cannot live on music alone. Nissim Nativ Acting School spreads the wealth of its year-end projects with *The Sleep and the Fire* tonight at the Tel Aviv Tzavta at 8:30.

Jerusalem

Jerusalem stakes out its own musical scene this weekend. The sumptuous Latino Jazz Festival is being held at the Israel Museum tonight at 8:00 featuring the David Sanchez Quintet, Fareed Haque Edsel Gomez and Diego Urcola.

Don't go anywhere when it's over: At 10:30 p.m., the United Nations Orchestra plays with Paquito D'Rivera in a special tribute to the one and only Dizzy Gillespie. Call (02) 670-8985 for details.

For theater, go crazy with Chekhov in a program called *Chekhovmania*, which presents three short comedies by the master. At the Nissim Nativ Acting Studio, Yad Harutzim 4, starting at 8:30 p.m.

On a more somber note, the Khan's latest, much talked about play - *Conversations After a Funeral* - is showing tonight, at 8:30 at the Khan.

After the play have some coffee and stick around for a shot at true creativity in *Can't See for a Meter*, where the audience impro-

vises scenarios and the actors act them out. Starts at 11. Call (02) 671-8281.

Closest poets should bring their poetry to a free, open reading in English at an event called *Voices* being held by Nomi Zuckerman, at 52 Bethlehem Road. (02) 671-7841.

And Points Beyond

On Saturday night *Shalom '98* Tel Aviv, a group of 100 dancers, singers and musicians perform in a show orchestrated by Gavri Levy, called *Ein Li Erer: Acheret* (I have no other land). Participants include: Shlomit Aharon (Hacot Over Habibi), Puli, Gavri and Sheike. At 9 p.m. at the Caesarea Amphitheater National Park.

Pop also resurfaces in the suburbs this weekend! Dana Berger, if you haven't seen enough of her in the papers, can be seen crooning in the flesh tonight at 10 in Ramat

Hasharon's Sixth Sense Club. Alternatively, you could attend the courtly and romantic A Sense of Spain, a concert of Spanish music and dance at Ra'anana's West Park. Starts at 8:30 tonight.

Then on Saturday, Ness Tziona sizzles with the indomitable, wailing Boaz Sharabi. Sharabi will be playing tunes off his new album, *When You Touch Me*. Starts at 9:30 p.m. at Hechal Hatarbut. Call (08) 922-6979.

Finally, never forget ethnic music. From tonight through Monday, an international ethnic music festival *Way to the Music* is taking place in the Western Galilee. Many of the groups are performing in Israel for the first time. Thursday, 9 p.m., in Acco - Ando Drom, from Hungary.

Saturday, at Kibbutz Ayalon - Agrigantus, starting at 8 p.m. Sunday, also at Kibbutz Ayalon - DD Synthesis, from Macedonia. Call (04) 838-4777 for details.

Weekender Food & Drink

Cool desserts from hot cooks

Five celebrated cooks show how to capture the season in desserts you won't believe. By Mary Malouf



These are the days when rules relax, when time ticks more slowly, when memories are made.

The perfect summer dessert is like a summer day — indulgent and easy, yet ephemeral. Think about it: The season for tree-ripened peaches is short. Ice cream melts in a moment on a hot July afternoon. Summer sweets are fleeting pleasures, meant to be eaten fast, or at least before they disappear, which is the way it should be.

The last thing you want as you head for the beach or play your third set of tennis is a wedge of chocolate cake lingering with you, or in you. So summer desserts, like summer, should be light. In that spirit, we've collected the favorite low-fat desserts from five leading food experts, cookbook writers, and restaurateurs who know a thing or two about what's hot, what's cool, and what can amaze with less than two grams of fat.

Ice cream, the quintessential summer icon, is at the top of almost everyone's list. Anyone who can say "Ben and Jerry" knows there are now more flavors than you can cram in your freezer at once. Atlanta cooking teacher and cookbook author Shirley Corriher played off that sense of variety and surprise when she created a brightly flavored lemon-ginger ice cream with a secret ingredient — fat-free sour cream. The result provides so much of the textural luxury of full-fat premium ice cream you'd swear it was hand-cranked on a back porch at sunset.

Food expert and cookbook author Nathalie Dupree, whose roots are firmly planted in the unhurried summers of the American south, keeps it elementary. She just takes strawberries, adds a touch of sugar, and, to make sure their sunshine taste is strong, a splash of balsamic vinegar. That's really an old chef's trick for livening up dull berries, but with summer's finest, the special becomes the spectacular.

Lindsey Shere, of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, California, also depends on the essential fruits of summer for her classic recipe, blackberry soup with peaches and berries.

Rick Bayless, owner of the award-winning Frontera Grill and Topolobampo in Chicago, draws on the cuisine of Mexico. Spicy food is a natural in hot weather — it

cools by contrast. But salsa is a hard act to follow. That's why fruit ices, ice milks, and the frozen-fruit popicles called paleas are a way of life in Mexico. In Oaxaca, icy fruit treats are flavored with exotic ingredients such as rose petals, corn, burnt milk, or avocado. Bayless's favorite fruit ice uses fresh mango.

For Nick Malgieri, acclaimed cookbook author and director of the baking program at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, a Viennese version of the classic caramel custard is the perfect summer solution. Mimicking the essence of ice cream, it's cool, slippery, and soothingly silky. It's also elegant but uncomplicated, ideal for summer's barefoot formality. And, as with the other choices, it carries the essence of sweet memories in the making.

MANGO-LIME ICE
This tropical fruit ice by Rick Bayless is perfect after a spicy meal. It gets its tangy flavor from the lime, though lemon can be substituted if lime isn't available.

2 cups chopped peeled ripe mango
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 cup water
1/2 cup lime juice
1 1/2 Tbsp. grated orange rind
thin lime wedges (optional)

Combine first 5 ingredients in a food processor and process until smooth. Press mixture through a sieve over a bowl, reserving liquid, and discard pulp. Pour mango mixture into the freezer; can of an ice-cream maker; freeze according to manufacturer's instructions. Spoon mango mixture into a freezer-safe container; cover and freeze 1 hour or until firm.

Garnish with thin lime wedges, if desired. (Serves 8.)

STRAWBERRIES WITH BROWN SUGAR AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR
This easy recipe is one of Nathalie Dupree's favorite stand-bys for dessert.

2 cups halved small strawberries
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 1/2 tsp. balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup yogurt
mint leaves (optional)

Combine first 3 ingredients in a bowl, cover and marinate in

refrigerator 30 minutes. Spoon into each of 4 bowls and top each with yogurt. Garnish with fresh mint leaves, if desired. (Serves 4.)

VIENNESE CARAMEL CUSTARD

There's a double hit of caramel in Nick Malgieri's Viennese version of the classic crème caramel.

1 1/4 cups sugar, divided
1/2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. water
2 1/2 cups low-fat milk
6 large egg whites
2 large eggs
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
thin lemon slices (optional)

Preheat oven to 150°. Combine 1/2 cup sugar and lemon juice in a small, heavy saucepan over medium-high heat; cook until sugar dissolves. Continue cooking an additional 4 minutes or until golden. Immediately pour into 6 (1/2 cup) ramekins, tipping quickly until caramelized sugar coats bottom of cups.

Combine 1/2 cup sugar and water in a large, heavy saucepan over medium-high heat; cook until sugar dissolves. Continue cooking an additional 4 minutes or until golden; set aside. Heat 1/4 cup sugar and milk over medium-high heat in a small, heavy saucepan to 80° or until bubbles form around the edge (do not boil). Gradually add hot milk mixture to sugar mixture in large saucepan, stirring constantly with a whisk. Cook over medium-high heat until sugar melts. Remove from heat.

Combine egg whites and eggs in a large bowl and stir well with a whisk. Gradually add hot milk mixture to eggs, stirring constantly with a whisk. Stir in vanilla extract. Pour into the prepared ramekins.

Place the ramekins in a shallow roasting pan and add hot water to pan to a depth of 2.5 cm. Bake at 250° for 45 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from pan and cool completely on a wire rack. Cover and chill at least 3 hours.

Loosen edges of custards with a knife or rubber spatula. Place a dessert plate, upside down, on top of each ramekin; invert custard onto plate. Drizzle any remaining syrup over custards and garnish with thin lemon slices, if desired. (Serves 6.)

BLACKBERRY SOUP WITH PEACHES AND BERRIES
Pastry chef Lindsey Shere of Chez Panisse created this refreshing simple soup one summer as the result of an overgrown blackberry patch.

3 1/2 cups blackberries, divided
1/2 cup water
6 Tbsp. sugar, divided
1 Tbsp. kirsch (cherry brandy)
2 cups sliced peeled peaches

Combine 2 1/2 cups blackberries and water in a medium-sized non-aluminum saucepan. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook 15 minutes or until blackberries are very soft.

Press blackberry mixture through a sieve over a small bowl, reserving liquid; discard seeds. Combine blackberry liquid, 3 Tbsp. sugar and kirsch, cover and chill for at least 2 hours.

Combine 3 Tbsp. sugar and peaches; toss gently to coat. Spoon 1/4 cup blackberry mixture into each of 6 shallow soup bowls. Arrange 1/2 cup peach slices and about 2 1/2 Tbsp. blackberries over each serving. (Serves 6.)

LEMON-GINGER ICE CREAM

Fat-free sour cream gives Shirley Corriher's recipe its incredibly creamy texture. Crystallized ginger can be found with the spices in the supermarket. If you're not a fan of ginger, omit it. We tested the recipe without the ginger and got a nice lemon taste.

1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
2 Tbsp. light-colored corn syrup
2 Tbsp. minced crystallized ginger (optional)
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
1/4 tsp. salt
4 cups fat-free sour cream
2 cups lemon yogurt
lemon rind strips (optional)

Combine first 8 ingredients in a food processor. Process until smooth; scrape sides of bowl occasionally.

Pour mixture into the freezer can of an ice-cream freezer; freeze according to manufacturer's instructions. Spoon ice cream into a freezer-safe container; cover and freeze 1 hour or until firm. Garnish with lemon rind strips, if desired. (Serves 11.)

Creators Syndicate, Inc.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

Sea Food Bar

The Sea Food Bar (Bar Perot Yam) in Herzliya is now offering its own version of surf and turf for the summer. Instead of the classic steak and lobster tail combination, the restaurant is offering seafood and ostrich meat. For fans only, call (09) 951-1219 for reservations.

Ran Shmueli summer foods

Ran Shmueli, a popular caterer and the owner of two delis (one in Herzliya and the other in Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir), is offering a special summer menu to take out for meals at home or picnics. Offerings include: Salmon Teriyaki, NIS 14 per 100 gr.; chicken pieces in peanuts and mushrooms, NIS 7.50 per 100 gr.; couscous and seafood salad, NIS 5.50 per 100 gr.; terrine of carrot, spinach and cauliflower, NIS 6.50 per 100 gr.

In the dessert department, new selections include lemon and berry cake at NIS 100 per cake and summer fruit pie at NIS 85 a pie.

Almost seafood cocktail (fair-avoid)

Chef Hayam, the first and only Israeli company to introduce surimi products (kosher copies of shrimp, calamari and scallops) to Israel, has just introduced a mixed seafood cocktail to its product line. It's interesting that the front of the package says it's made from natural ingredients, because when you read the actual list of ingredients on the side, it contains artificial ingredients.

The shrimp has a slightly chemical taste, while the calamari and "medallions" (kosher scallops) are closer to the original.

Another Chef Hayam product, which comes in both sticks and slices, tastes so much like crab meat that many Japanese restaurants use it as a cheap alternative. But unless you're eating it with a particularly good sauce, or are just curious about what it tastes like, this product is a really unnecessary one to add to your freezer.

NIS 26.99 for a 500 gr. package.

Falcon specials

If you buy kosher meat on a regular basis, you might want to join Falcon's Members Club, which offers special discounts of up to 16 percent each month. It also will distribute presents on holidays to club members.

This month Falcon has come out with some new products: Oriental kebab, seasoned with onion, parsley and fresh mint; and Romanian kebab, with garlic. There's also lamb kebab formed into small patties.

Falcon also sells ground (kosher) meat of any kind to order. Beef and turkey sell for NIS 27.90 per kilogram, while lamb sells for NIS 36.90 per kg.

Falcon stores are located in Tel Aviv (14 Carlebach), Yavne (66 Hadar), Jerusalem (70 Bethlehem St.) and Herzliya (10 Sokolov St.).

Falcon sent me the following recipe, which I pass on to you.

YUGOSLAVIAN KERAB

700 gr. ground beef
1 onion
4 Tbsp. red wine
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 egg
about 2 Tbsp. oil
lemon, tomato and onion slices for serving

Put the ground beef in a large bowl. Chop the onion finely and add it to the bowl with the wine and seasonings. Let sit, covered, in the refrigerator for one hour.

Heat the grill. Add the egg to the ground meat mixture and mix well. Divide into 18 pieces

and form into elongated roll shapes. Put 3-on each skewer and grill. Turn and brush often with oil.

Place on a heated serving platter and serve with lemon, tomato and onion slices. (Serves 6.)

Lite salads (OK)

Strauss, makers of those salads with the annoyingly patronizing name *achla* (which means fantastic in the lowest form of Hebrew slang), has just added Achla Lite salads to its product line. There are two types of new salads — humous and eggplant — and both are lower in calories and higher in nutritional fiber than the regular versions, thanks to the addition of starch rather than more fat.

The taste isn't bad and all the ingredients are natural, except for a preservative. Containers of 500 gr. cost NIS 9.90.

Danoma melon (OK)

Strauss again. This time the idea is seasonal yogurt flavors, and the flavor of the season is melon. Strauss's grande prix series features nut, pear, orange-pineapple, strawberry, wild berry, apple and cherry flavored yogurts. The melon-flavored one did not go over big with my family, but they did like the strawberry, wild berry and pear. The melon yogurt was too sweet, too tart and had an undertaste. 150 ml. container costs NIS 2.38.

Cultured milk (good idea)

Tnuva has acquired the franchise to produce and market probiotic LGG1 bacteria as an addition to some of its dairy products. Until now, LGG1 only has been added to Emmi yogurt.

LGG1 is considered the most advanced positive form of bacteria of its kind, helping to improve the immune system, balance the digestive system, and help prevent build-up of poisonous substances in the intestines.

It tastes just like regular milk, but costs NIS 5.40 instead of 4.60 as regular milk does.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

My husband left my beloved Chinese steamer pot on the gas range without enough water in the bottom of the pot. The bottom got all blackened. Is there any way I can get the burnt smell out of it and, if not, is there anywhere I can buy one in Israel? I've had mine for almost 20 years and I would like to find a way to save it if possible.

— Karen Aftir, Tel Aviv

A Chinese steamer basket is a wonderful invention. For those unfamiliar with it, it is a bamboo steamer with different round baskets or levels that fit on top of one another. The steamer basket is placed in a wok and the bottom of the wok is filled with boiling water. The steam rises through the different levels of the basket and cooks the food.

What happened to your husband is a frequent occurrence — if you steam the vegetables in the steamer basket over too high a flame the water evaporates too quickly and

the basket burns. If it's not too black, you can try soaking it in water, diluted tea, or a diluted solution of water and baking soda.

Another option is to discard the most burnt basket, soak the others for an hour or so in one of these solutions, wash them well and steam the basket without food over low heat for 20 minutes. Usually the burnt smell will pass after the baskets are soaked and used once or twice.

If all else fails, you can buy another Chinese steamer pot at East West, which is located in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market (38 Rehov Yishkon, tel. (03) 516-7925.)

I want to buy a set of new pots for my daughter as a wedding present. I am considering copper pots, not only because they are beautiful, but also because I heard that they are the best pots to use for cooking. (My daughter is an excellent cook.) In a recent column (Phyllis's Tips, June 25), you wrote about stainless steel pots as opposed to aluminum, but what about copper? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

— Vera Savnik, Tel Aviv

Copper pots are indeed the most beautiful pots you can buy, and certainly add a professional look to any kitchen. They have been used for centuries because copper

is an excellent conductor of heat and distributes it so evenly that it allows you to cook at lower temperatures.

Because copper also can interact negatively with certain foods, copper pieces are lined with tin, nickel or stainless steel (except for copper mixing bowls, because the copper is especially helpful for heating fluffy egg whites when using a wire whisk).

You probably do not, however, wish your daughter to stand in the kitchen and polish her copper pots, which she will be forced to do in order to keep them shiny and attractive. She will have to use a paste polish to clean them, since powders gradually abrade the surface. In addition, wooden or heat-resistant plastic tools must be used with copper pots so as not to scratch the interior.

I'd stick to a set of good quality stainless steel pots (with heavy bottoms if she has an electric stove) for everyday use.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

Zabagione

By ROSA MARCOLOTTI

A good way to spend a rainy day is to make zabagione, a rich, creamy, and delicious Italian dessert. It's made with egg yolks, sugar, and a splash of wine. The result is a smooth, velvety sauce that can be served warm or cold.

There are many variations of zabagione, but the most common is made with white wine. You can also use red wine or brandy. The choice is up to you.

But to be fair, (and this is a very important point) zabagione is not just a dessert. It's a versatile sauce that can be used in many ways.

For example, you can use it as a base for a soup or a sauce for meat. Or you can use it as a dip for bread or vegetables.

So, next time you're looking for a new recipe, try making zabagione. You won't be disappointed.

Ingredients: 4 egg yolks, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup white wine, 1/4 tsp. salt.

Instructions: Beat egg yolks and sugar in a bowl until thick. Add wine and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thick and creamy.

Serves 4. Zabagione can be served warm or cold. It's best served with bread or vegetables.

Creators Syndicate, Inc.

The fortress built on a farm



The central pillar of Montfort's biggest hall: Because there were no battles fought there, it remains one of Israel's best-preserved Crusader fortresses. (Justus Meyer)

Weekender Travel

Day Tripper

By Ham Shapiro

Of all the Crusader fortresses in Israel the Montfort is perhaps the most unspoiled. I hadn't actually planned to climb up to the Montfort when I visited Park Goren on a beautiful day recently. The park is a comfortable spot with shade trees and picnic benches. Best of all, as far as I am concerned, there is a terrace that offers a gorgeous view of the fortress.

The decision to actually attempt the climb evolved as I sat with Yuval Hollander, director of the Montfort Ranch, which encompasses a visitor's center with information on hikes and attractions, a kiosk and activities for children. Their specialty is donkey rides, available for groups and families.

Talking with Hollander whetted my appetite for a short excursion and Hollander suggested a 90-minute hike to the Montfort and back. After collecting a hat and some water and explaining to Hollander that his hour and a half would take me two, we set off.

The walk to the fortress is deceptively easy, downhill all the way to the bottom of Nahal Kziv. It was quite a temptation to take off my shoes and cool my

feet in the running stream, but we were a little pressed for time.

On the way, we passed a small stone structure of particular significance for me, since it marks the spot where I learned not to trust the written word.

Many years ago, while I was visiting the Montfort with a friend, we went down into the valley to find a chapel which was mentioned in our guide book. We found the building, a surprisingly well-preserved Gothic structure, but soon realized it was too far away from the fortress and too close to the water to be a chapel. It must have been either a mill or a store house, we decided, realizing that the author of the guide book must have been misled by the building's Gothic style.

Today there are signs for hikers at the bottom of the stream that indicate the way to various destinations. Unfortunately, the signs do not inform the hiker of distance, the level of difficulty, or how long the walk will take.

It was quite a climb from the bottom of the stream to the fortress itself, and I was quite out of breath by the time we reached the top. As I sat in the shade resting, Hollander pointed out some

of the massive columns and capitals still standing in the original structure.

The structure is so well-preserved, Hollander said, because there were no battles fought here. The Montfort was originally built as a farm by the Teutonic knights, after they split with the other crusaders in Acre. The knights surrendered to the Moslems and were allowed to leave peacefully.

In fact, Hollander added, the Teutonic knights were the only crusaders who took their record books with them when they left. These records, an important source on the crusaders in this country, still exist in Germany.

Sitting in the shade, I tried to imagine what it must have been like to till the small fields and terraces in the valley below and then make the long climb back home every night.

The hike back was easy enough going down, but climbing up the other side was difficult. In any case, we reached the top almost exactly two hours after we had left.

For information about donkey tours and other activities at the Montfort Ranch, call (04) 980-6778.

The road less traveled

By JOHN BALZAR

A generation ago, writer Edward Abbey interviewed writer Joseph Wood Krutch, and they got around to the subject of roads and highways. These two were philosophers and environmentalists, and their thinking continues to influence conservation debates.

They voiced resentment about the casual intrusion of automobiles into whatever wild places were left in the country. More precisely, as Krutch put it, America needed fewer good roads into the wild and more bad ones. "There's nothing like a good, bad dirt road to screen out the faintly interested and to invite in the genuinely interested."

Today, no highway proves this point as emphatically, as colorfully, with as many superlatives, or as much lingering controversy, as Alaska's "hail road" to Prudhoe Bay, the most northerly road in the United States.

One-and-a-half lanes wide, this rough, corrugated, dead-end road travels more or less directly north from Fairbanks—73 miles on an approach road and 414 miles after that. Ninety percent of the journey is over dirt, sand and gravel. North of Fairbanks 133 miles, the haul road crosses the Yukon River—the only place in the nation where the continent's third-largest river is bridged.

Another 55 miles and the road intersects the Arctic Circle—that eerie strange latitude above which the sun never sets during summer. Lumpy, twisty, with heart-stopping grades, icy treacherous in winter and dust-choked at other times, the road continues 122 more miles and crosses the Continental Divide of the Brooks Range mountains, the loneliest in America.

Beyond the summit is a sign that says "Do Not Out," marking the northernmost tree along the highway. Beyond that, a sparse, Beyond here, trees have not yet gained root against the savage eight-month winters. The remaining 177 miles travel down the north flank of the Brooks Range and across the vast, flat, coastal plain, a flatland of winds and sand, a colossal breeding ground for mosquitoes and migratory birds, summer home for huge herds of caribou and the site of America's largest oil field, Prudhoe Bay.

Along the entire road, there are only two gas stations, gas pumps and places for makeshift campers. There are no grocery stores, no fast-food outlets, no ambulances.

On a recent trip up the road, signs of human habitation were scarce, outnumbered by musk ox, grizzly bear, caribou, musk swan, goldeneye, fox and arctic hare. A single state trooper is assigned to patrol the road, but only for five days per month.

Watch your speed, anyway.

Perhaps no road in the hemisphere results in so many cracked windshields per vehicle mile as this one.

Surely no road goes so far through so much without getting there. Just as the haul road travels all the way north only to be blocked—sorry, travel by permit only—11 miles short of the Arctic Ocean. Out there are the oil fields, and casual motorists are forbidden. After all, oil is the reason for this highway. The road's very name, the haul road, suggests its origins: completed in 1974 for the sole purpose of permitting trucks to haul supplies to Prudhoe Bay.

Along most of its route, the haul road is within sight of the \$8-billion oil pipeline, which carries arctic crude south to civilization. For 20 years, private vehicles were prohibited along most of the haul road. In fact, one of the solemn covenants for congressional approval of the pipeline was the promise never to open this road to public travel.

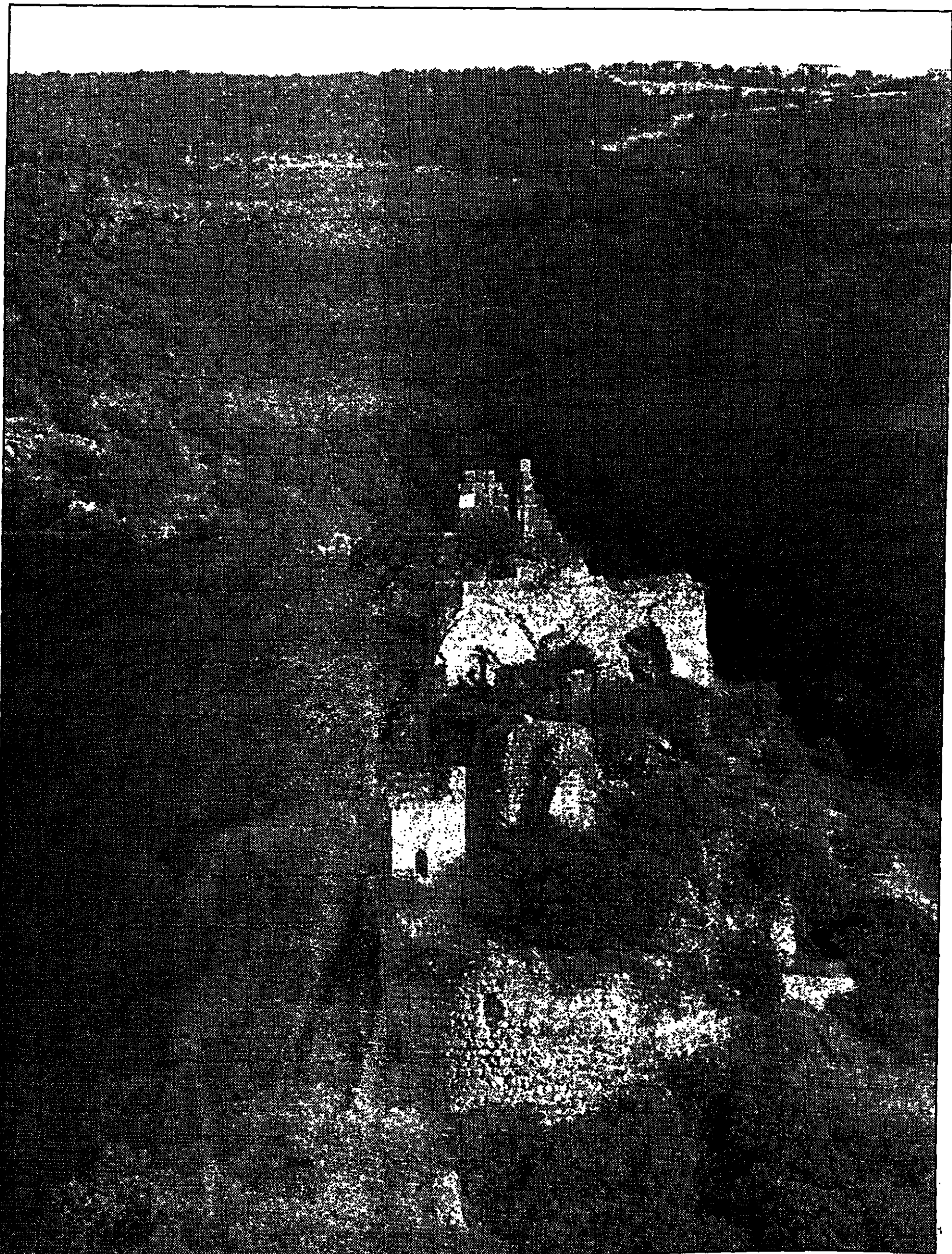
The reason, as Edward Abbey or Joseph Wood Krutch could have forecast: With highways and tourists come permanent development and environmental degradation. And the arctic is a fragile ecosystem that is impossibly slow to heal itself from damage. However, a road—even a dangerous, hard-scrabble working road like this one, a road where trucks scream along at breakneck speed and toss up epic clouds of gravel and dust—is a hard thing to keep Americans off of.

Incrementally over the years, the no-trespassing gate was pushed north. Hunters in particular and allies in the tourist business demanded the "right" to drive on any road they pleased. Finally, in 1995, all restrictions were lifted for travel to Deadhorse, the bleak oil boomtown erected just outside Prudhoe Bay. The haul road became Alaska Highway 11, the James Dalton Highway, named in honor of an oil engineer.

Since its opening, the highway has begun to produce the twin harvests of modern tourism: a light coating of litter along the right-of-way and the get-rich development schemes of those who envision attracting what Krutch would call the "faintly interested": those who wouldn't come just for the mountains, rivers and open space, but who might be enticed by fast-food stops, do-it-yourself gold-mining plazas and other amusements. So far, none of these stratagems has found a backer.

Mosquitoes, the windshield-busting gravel, the 60-below-winters and the prospect of getting into serious trouble out here, it seems, hold back all but those Krutch would find "genuinely interested," proving his point that a truly remarkable road can be downright awful. And maybe it should stay that way.

(Los Angeles Times)



n Post

ons ago, a t Petersen his me around, savvy about ed with a bet- with no solid is beginning to

ure by now I ng," he said. arried and has a r, also works start working at he's within a project a youth- has begun dying ay hair and is dy to try to win

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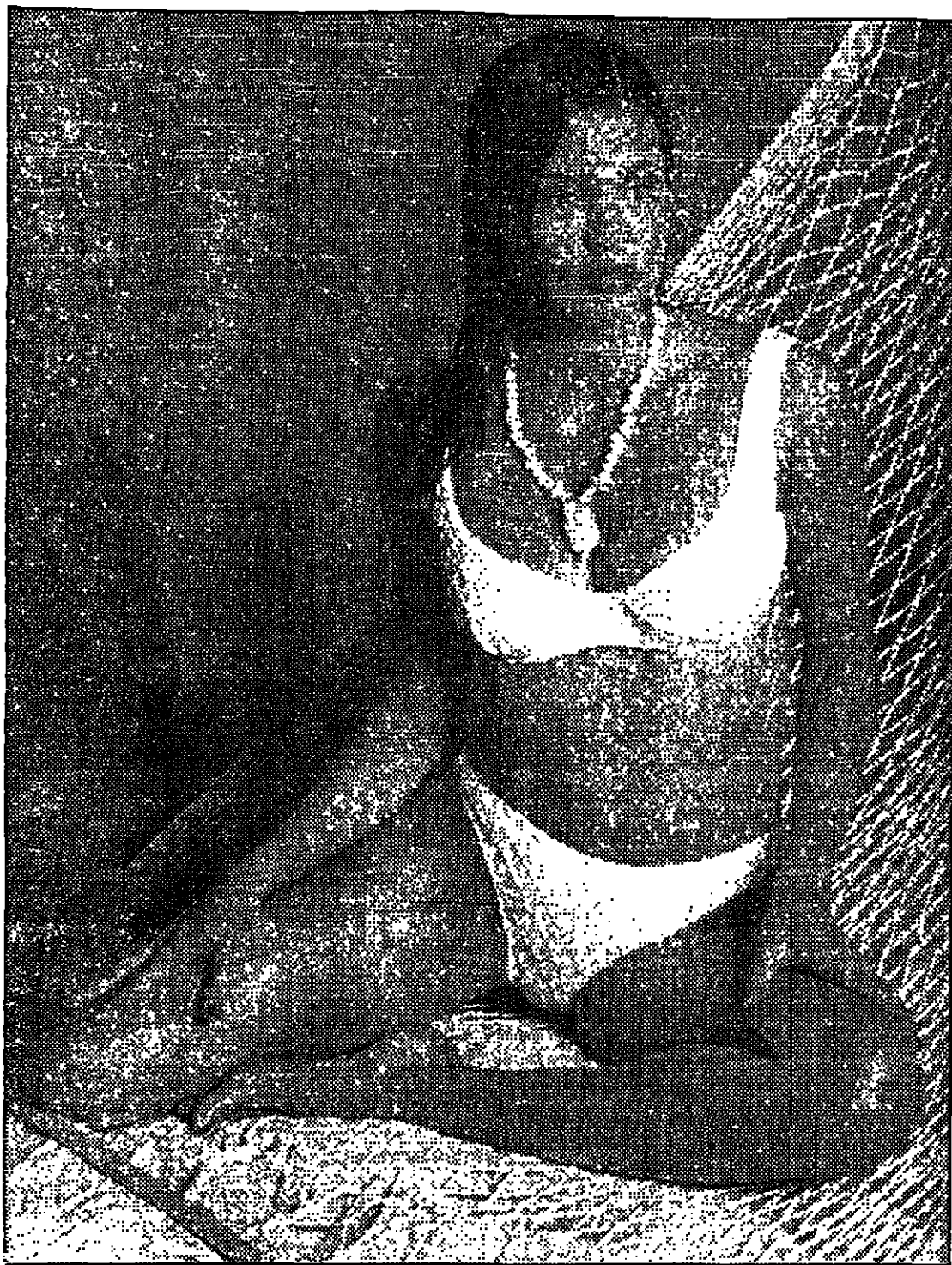
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For information about visits to the various facilities at Kibbutz Ein Gedi, mentioned last week, call 07-6584444, and not as published.

Weekender Leisure



Can you really wear a two piece - like this white, textured Gideon Oberson (left) - with panache or are you a little too fleshy to meet the challenge? 'Borderline' buyers can try this Banana Moon suit (above), which covers a multitude of sins, and offers more protection from the sun.

Making a splash



This black Apré one-piece suit can double as a bodysuit.

It doesn't matter how many swimsuits we own, come summer-vacation time, we simply must get a new one.

Very often the need for a new swimsuit is just a state of mind, since the really good brands should last you almost forever.

A Gottex suit I bought 25 years ago is still in excellent condition, despite exposure to various kinds of water in different countries and continents.

Not only has it retained its shape and quality, it's absolutely modern - including the built-in bra - which is yet more proof that what goes around comes around.

Frankly, I love this swimsuit so much that I've never really been tempted to buy a new one. But most people I know own at least three or four. And when there's a holiday approaching, they usually go searching for yet another. Heaven forbid that anyone recognize that they're wearing last year's model!

Until you actually see a proper swimwear display, it's hard to envision how much variety there can be in so skimpy an item of clothing. But walk into a department store's swimwear section or into a store that specializes in swimwear and you'll see how mind-boggling the choice is.

It starts with fabrics - stretch and non-stretch. In general, stretch fabrics are much more flattering to your figure.

But the trouble begins where the fabrics leave off. Pudgy thighs, for instance, will tend to bulge from beneath a swimsuit that is tight everywhere else.

Then there's texture - smooth, elasticized, velvety, silky, satiny, toweling and even metallic. Take your pick, they're all there on the racks.

How about color? Black, white, blue and green are always in fashion, followed closely this season by citrus hues and coffee browns.

If you're having trouble decid-

Flair By Greer Fay Cashman

ing between a plain color and a print, go for the monochrome. You're less likely to get tired of it in a hurry, and it's easier to match with skirts, pants and jackets.

However if you have a taste for the exotic, it might be worth taking a look at some of the gorgeous prints in the Gideon Oberson, Gottex and Diva collections.

Don't forget this is sale time, so you might be able to get two for the price of one - a print and a plain.

THEN there's style. Do you want one-piece or two-piece? This is where you have to be brutally honest with yourself. Just how firm is your torso?

Can you really wear a two-piece suit with panache, or are you just a little too fleshy to meet the challenge?

If you're "borderline," you might care to look at those two-piece suits in which the top is more like a cropped tee-shirt than a bra. Aside from covering a multitude of sins, it also protects you from overexposure to the sun.

But the truth is that those boned and under-wired bikini tops which look just like lingerie are much more sexy than the tee-shirt look. In fact, the lingerie look has made such inroads into swimwear styling that there's now very little difference between a genuine bra and its swimwear counterpart.

Check out Apré, which is one of Hamashbir's private label brands, or the French-manufactured Banana Moon, which has only recently debuted on the Israeli market.

Then there are the Oberson, Gottex, Diva, Pilpel and Castro collections, which also feature bra outlines in their one-piece costumes.

At the opposite extreme, the bra in the one-piece suit is completely invisible on the surface of the garment, giving it a more athletic look.

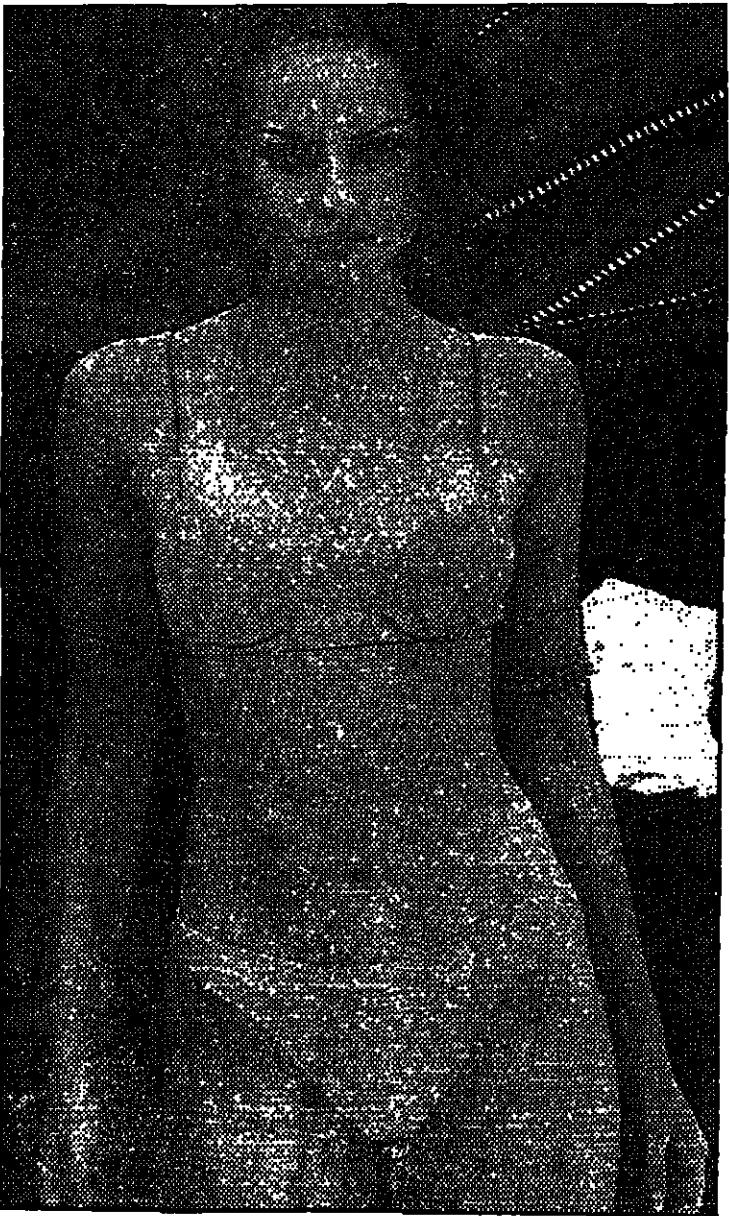
No-nonsense athletic styling features strongly in most collections, though arguably more so in the sports-oriented Speedo line.

But even athletic cuts can look romantic and feminine, depending on the print.

Whatever it is that grabs you, now is the time to grab it.

When you go swimwear shop-

No-nonsense athletic styling features strongly in Speedo's sports-oriented line.



This suit, available at a 20% discount at Hamashbir outlets, is a good example of how the lingerie look has made inroads into swimwear styling.

ping, take along a couple of your favorite skirts or pants for color coordination. After all - there isn't much difference between the cost

of a swimsuit and the cost of a bodysuit, and since the swimsuit can perform a dual purpose, it's the better buy.

Bridge Pretty woman

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North (Larsen)
♠ 43
♥ A J 8 6 2
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ J 10

West (Pretty W.) East (Baze)
♠ 10 5 2 ♠ K J 8 7
♥ K Q 10 4 3 ♥ 5
♦ Q ♦ K 10 9 7 6
♣ A 9 7 5 ♣ 6 4 2

South (Cubley)
♠ A Q 9 6
♥ 9 7
♦ A 5 2
♣ K Q 8 3

South West North East
1 NT pass 2 ♦ double
2 ♥ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♦ Q

A friend in San Francisco, Bill Cubley, loves to tell the story of the time he matched wits with the experts.

Bill lives in San Francisco and is a fan of the detective genre, especially the classic Charlie Chan novels from the 1920's (written by Earl Derr Biggers). Once, after playing bridge with me, he sent me a half dozen of these novels.

Charlie Chan was a fictitious Chinese detective in Hawaii. "Scientific clues good in books," Chan liked to say, "but in real life must examine people's face and nature to solve crime."

The same can be true at the bridge table. Methods and systems are good in books, but at the table the clue to your play is often in the countenance of your opponents.

The story of today's deal begins about six years ago, when Cubley entered the Pro-Am event at the Bridge Today All-Star Game, played at the Rolling Hills Country Club in California. Twenty world-famous players would play one evening for charity, partnered by 20 amateurs. Cubley had drawn Kyle Larsen as his partner. Though he was late for the cocktail party, which preceded the event, he was not unhappy. Having driven from Oakland to Rolling Hills, he just had time to stop for dinner at a nearby Japanese restaurant. In the next booth, Cubley met two of the pros, Kathie Wei-Sender and Zia Mahmood, and was delighted to listen to their bridge "gossip."

At the country club, Cubley and Larsen decided to play Jacoby Transfers. They were having a reasonable game when they came up against Grant Baze (East) and

a pretty woman, who shall remain nameless, sitting West (the amateur). Cubley opened the bidding one notrump (15-17) and the Pretty Woman passed. Larsen (North) responded two diamonds, a transfer to hearts.

Baze doubled this and Cubley took the transfer anyway, by bidding two hearts. Most players would have passed the double with Cubley's cards, because he had only a small doubton heart, and it is accepted practice to take the transfer over the double only when you hold three-card support.

Two hearts by South became the final contract, to the delight of Pretty Woman (notice her heart holding). Cubley also noticed that Pretty Woman was happy.

She led the queen of diamonds and Cubley read the lead as a singleton. Nevertheless, he decided to duck the trick, hoping for a spade switch. PW cooperated, switching to a spade into South's ace-queen. Next Cubley attacked trumps by leading the 7. PW played the 3 and Cubley considered the situation. The percentage play was to play low, hoping that West held K-10 or Q-10 and that a second finesse could be taken next time if this trick was lost to East. On the other hand, Cubley didn't want to see East win the first trump trick, then return a diamond. West would ruff it, and perhaps lead a club to East's ace (if he had it) and get a second ruff.

What would Charlie Chan do in this case? Cubley observed that PW was now a bit nervous and he deduced that she was likely to hold all the heart honors. So he called for dummy's deuce, and when East followed with the 5, Cubley was satisfied. He was even more satisfied when both pros at the table congratulated him on his triple finesse. He led a second trump, West put in the queen, and the ace won in dummy, as Baze discarded a diamond.

Now Cubley led the jack of clubs to PW's ace. She continued spades and Cubley won, cashed two clubs and ruffed a spade in dummy. When he led a diamond to the ace, PW made an error by discarding, so Cubley was able to ruff his last club in dummy to score nine tricks, for plus 140 - a fine score.

Cubley told me he will always remember the hand and that evening. "I finished fourth North-South that night in a field with 14 world champions. It was a bigger thrill than finishing first on other occasions where I've won only masterpoints."

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by e-mail at gran@netvision.net.il

Chess Whirlwind attack

By NIGEL SHORT

In the world of mega-databases there is something pleasingly quaint about the Yugoslav publication, *Chess Informant*. The latest edition, volume 71, contains 628 (largely) well-annotated games in the agreeable format of a book (apparently there is still a market for paper products, even in this day and age).

Probably the most brilliant novelty of the latest edition is that of the genial, chain-smoking Turk, Suat Atalik, against Gyula Sax of Hungary.

Sax, a former World Championship candidate, followed a recommendation of Timman's in an exceedingly sharp variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defense but was met with a prepared improvement. Despite being plenty of material up, he was unable to defend against a whirlwind attack.

White: Suat Atalik
Black: Gyula Sax
Szeged, 1997

1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 d5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 Ne4 7. Qc2 Nc6 7... c5 8. dxc5 Nc6 is another frequently seen option.

8. e3 e5 9. cxd5 Qxd5 10. Bc4! Rising to the challenge. The next few moves are forced for both sides.

10. ...Qa5+ 11. b4 Nxb4 12. Qx4 Ne2+ 13. Ke2 Qe1+ 14. Kf3 Nxa1 15. Bb2! 15. Qxc5+ Be6 16. Bxe6 0-0 leads to a clear advantage for Black.

15. ...0-0 16. Kg3 Kh8 as played by Jan Timman against the extravagantly named Tiger Hillarp Persson.

Timman duly beat off the attack of the wild beast after the following sequence. 17. Nf3 Qxh1 18.

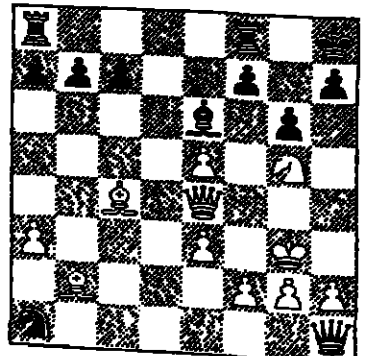
Ng5 f5 19. Qxe5 Bd7 20. Nf7+ Rxf7 21. Bxf7 f4+ 22. exf4 Qd1 23. f3 Nc2 24. Bc3 Qd3 25. d5 Rg8 26. Kf2 Qa6!! A very difficult defensive move to see.

27. Bxg8 Qb6+ 28. Ke2 Qg6! Defending against the mate, threatening the bishop and hitting g2 all at once. Black won shortly.

17. dxe5! A very calm continuation and an important novelty.

17. ...Be6 18. Nf3! An echo of the previous game but there is a significant difference. 18. ...Qx1 19. Ng5 g6

Black: (Sax)



White (Atalik) to play

20. Nxf7+!! Blasting open the long diagonal. 20. ...Rxf7 21. Bxe6 Rg7 22. Bf7!! A move of extraordinary beauty.

22. ...Rxf7 22. ...Qd1 23. e6 Qd6+ 24. f4 was Black's only (insufficient) hope eg 24. ...g5 25. Kg4!! as demonstrated by Atalik 25. ...gxf4+ 26. Kh5 Qc5+ 27. Qc5 Qxc5+ 28. Bxe5 fxe3 29. Kh6 Rg8 30. e7 with mate to follow.

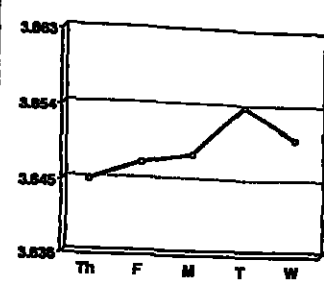
23. e6+ Kg8 24. Qd4! Kf8 25. exf7 Rxf7 26. Qd7+ And Black resigned because of 26. ...Kf8 27. Bg7+ Kg8 28. Bh6 with unavoidable mate on g7.

(Telegraph Group)

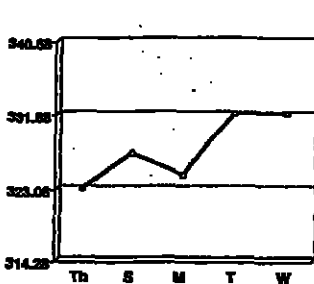
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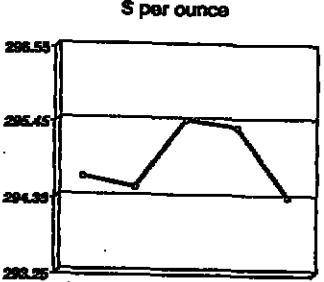
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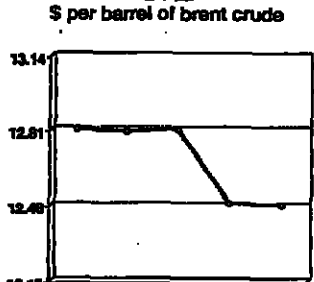
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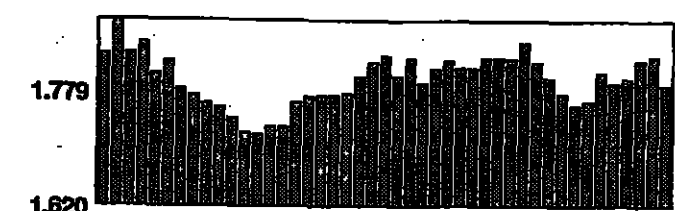
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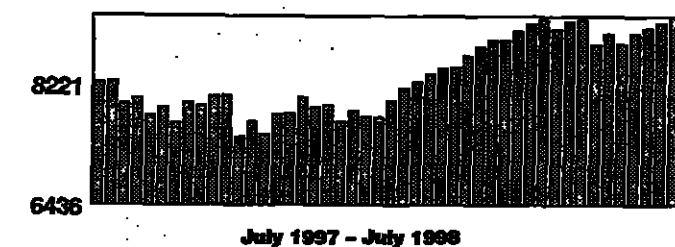
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DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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Central bank's June economic index fell 0.9%

The Bank of Israel's index of integrated economic indicators fell an initial 0.9 percent in June, providing further evidence for those who claim the slowdown still has a long way to go before it bottoms out. The central bank updated its figures for May to show the index fell 0.5%. However, these two figures came in the wake of a combined 2.6% rise in March and April.

David Harris

ECI to get Internet division from NKO

ECI Telecom and NKO, a subsidiary of Clal Industries, announced yesterday that they had signed a memorandum of understanding for the sale of NKO's IP Telephony systems division to ECI, which is based in Florida. Clal Industries said the deal would earn it a capital gain of NIS 25 million. NKO is an 80 percent subsidiary of Clalcom, a 73% subsidiary of Clal Industries. ECI President David Rubner said the acquisition was an additional step towards realizing ECI Telecom's IP Telephony strategy. The acquired division specializes in the integration of voice, fax, data and video over a single IP network.

Nina Gilbert

Foxcom spins off wireless activities

Foxcom, the Jerusalem-based maker of fiberoptic communications equipment, yesterday announced its split into two separate companies: Foxcom and Foxcom Wireless. The move is aimed at realizing the growth potential for both companies by separating the mobile business from the broadband business, according to CEO Howard Loboda. Foxcom is focusing its broadband activities on the MDU (multiple dwelling units) sector and the multi-point SDTV (Satellite Distribution Television) system. The high-capacity infrastructure can lower the cost of wiring subscribers with the SDTV system, which combines all entertainment services, including Internet.

Nina Gilbert

Read Sea Hotels sells Texas commercial center

Read Sea Hotels yesterday reported that it has sold through a subsidiary a 75 percent stake in a commercial center in Arlington, Texas, for \$3.75 million. Following the sale, the company will record a capital loss of \$100,000. The center was purchased in 1992 for \$3.78 million and was rented out for \$340,000 a year. Read Sea is controlled by hotelier Eli Popuchado.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Dead Sea Works wins \$110m. tender for Spanish potash manufacturer

By DAN GERSTENFELD

A consortium led by Dead Sea Works won a tender from the Spanish government for the purchase of potash manufacturer Grupo Potasa for \$110 million, the company said yesterday.

Following the deal, Dead Sea Works will hold 60 percent of the privatized company, with the remaining 40% divided equally between two Spanish companies, La Seda de Barcelona and Tolsa.

Grupo Potasa is currently held by SEPI, an industrial holding company controlled by the Spanish government. The sale of the company is in line with the government's policy of divesting itself from state-owned holdings. SEPI has sold 21 companies for \$16.4 billion in the past two years.

Dead Sea Works said 20 companies presented offers for the international tender, of which only four bidders reached the final stage.

Senior company sources said that at the first stages the

company thought its chances were low but during the last several weeks it became evident that the company will win the tender.

Dead Sea Works said it believes the offer given by the company was the highest one, but it has no details about the offers presented by its rivals.

The other groups included Canada's PCS, the world's largest potash producer, which submitted an offer together with the management of Grupo Potasa; a group led by Spanish fertilizer company Argonasa; and another local fertilizer firm Fertiberia, which competed together with French potash manufacturer SCFA.

The move is part of Dead Sea Works' effort to establish its position as a leading international potash manufacturer.

According to company sources, the deal is the largest ever concluded by the company. Before the deal Dead Sea Works held a market share of 6% to 7% of the world market for potash and some 10% of international trading in the chemical.

The sources added that the deal would be financed

through credit obtained from European banks.

Grupo Potasa is Spain's only potash producer, manufacturing over one million tons a year. Dead Sea Works, which is one of the world's five largest potash companies, produces some 2.5 million tons a year.

Last May the company, together with Eisenberg Group of Companies, finalized an agreement with the Chinese authorities to construct a potash plant in China at an estimated investment of \$450m.

Grupo Potasa is comprised of two producing companies and three marketing and logistics subsidiaries. The company employs 1,000 workers and reported net profits of \$6m. on sales of \$145m. last year.

Most of the company's marketing activities are concentrated in Europe, with 50% of its revenues coming from the local market and another 40% from France.

Dead Sea Works, which is a subsidiary of Israel Chemicals, announced earlier this year it will invest \$90m. to expand its potash manufacturing capacity to 2.75 million tons a year in order to enter new markets abroad.



Down and out in Cambodia

Cambodians ride a motor-taxi to work in Phnom Penh. The country is hoping that Sunday's elections will kick start the moribund economy, but economists say Asian investors are unlikely to rush to Cambodia's aid, regardless of the outcome.

(Reuters)

Local Catholic church: Gov't leaving 2000 tourism in limbo

HAIM SHAPIRO

The director of the government's Year 2000 Administration, Yossi Levy, told the Knesset's Tourism Lobby yesterday that work on the project would need to be stepped up immediately if it is to be ready for the year 2000 on time.

But the Catholic Church's director of preparations for 2000 in the Holy Land, Wadie Abbass, suggested the Administration itself is not doing its job, and had not even contacted him.

Levy told the lobby members of efforts to improve infrastructure in sites such as Nazareth and attempts to ease entry regulations for citizens of the Third World and former Soviet countries. He spoke of the need for funds for massive marketing campaigns and to assist in carrying out planned events.

However, Abbass, director of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of the Holy Land, said that neither Levy nor Year 2000 Administration chairman Shlomo Ilyia have tried to reach him. Abbass added that when he tried to call them, they did not return his telephone messages. On the other hand, he added, the Tourism Ministry and Religious

Affairs Ministry, as well as the Palestinian Authority's officials in Bethlehem, have all been very cooperative, he said.

Abbass spoke of plans by the Church to hold a giant youth gathering in August, 2000, just prior to one being planned in Rome, with the participation of some 10,000 young people. He said that preliminary studies had shown that Catholics in Israel and the West Bank would be willing to host up to 20,000 visitors in their homes.

In July, 2000, around the day commemorating the prophet Elijah, the Church is planning an interfaith gathering in Haifa, with the participation of Jews and Muslims, he said.

However, he added, pilgrims continue to express fears of unrest. "We can plan what we want, but if there is one bombing it could all go down the drain," he said.

A spokesperson for the Year 2000 Administration said in response that a meeting had been set up with Kamil Shehade, whom the Administration understood to be in charge of the year 2000 for the Catholic Church. In fact, Shehade is in charge of preparations for the Greek Catholics, a part of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

New foreign workers down 31% in '97

By DAVID HARRIS

The number of foreign workers with valid permits entering the country fell 31 percent last year to a total of 62,900, according to data the Central Bureau of Statistics published yesterday. The report also states that initial figures suggest the number of foreign workers leaving the country was greater than the number of those entering.

Meanwhile, the Employment Service and the Hotel Association yesterday agreed to replace foreign workers in Eilat's hotels with Israeli staff.

The CBS's paper says that while some 10,000-15,000 foreign workers entered Israel legally each year between 1990 and 1993, that figure had risen to 90,600 by 1996.

The figures show that of the 67,000 foreign workers who left Israel in 1996, 40 percent had been here for less than a year, 51% for one to two years, and the remainder for over two years.

Since 1995, work permits have been distributed to citizens of 128 countries. In 1997, 39% of all foreign workers were Romanian, with the next largest representations coming from Thailand, Turkey, Lebanon and the former Soviet Union.

In Eilat, the hotels have promised to give the Employment Service a list of 1,000 foreign workers who will be allowed to continue in their posts for three months. The remaining 250 legal workers in Eilat will be asked to leave their jobs immediately.

Neeman: No increase in '99 defense budget

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday rejected a request from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for a NIS 2 billion increase in his ministry's budget in 1999, Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said.

Neeman told a meeting of the inner defense cabinet that rather than increase the military's spending, Mordechai should look to economize. Every one percent saving is worth NIS 350 million, according to Treasury data.

"All budgetary requests will have to be matched off with the government's list of spending priorities," which will only be agreed on at the end of next month, said Yosef.

However, last month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that as peace becomes a reality, Israel, if anything, will have to increase its defense budget.

Netanyahu's spokesman would not divulge whether he repeated that view during yesterday's debate.

This morning Netanyahu and Neeman are scheduled to resume their negotiations on the '99 state budget, with Netanyahu demanding extra spending to create jobs and increase economic growth but Neeman insisting the budget contain a NIS 2b. cut to ensure the deficit is reduced to 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) from the 1998 target of 2.4%.

Speaking in Jerusalem on Tuesday after Netanyahu demanded substantial social spending next year, Neeman said that in 1997 this area took up 19.6% of the GDP and this year was likely to rise to 20%.

This year social spending comprises some 55% of all expenditure in the state budget, compared to 51% last year.

However, Neeman was still in the line of fire yesterday, as it became clear that even the Treasury believes unemployment will rise above 9% next year.

IMAX to debut here at \$35m. investment

By NINA GILBERT

The Imax Corporation has granted its first country-wide franchise to a group of North American investors, who plan to establish three mega-theaters to show the special IMAX giant-screen movies in Jerusalem, Eilat and Tel Aviv at an initial investment of \$35 million, the franchise holders said yesterday.

Two New Yorkers, Bennett Kaplan and Peter Isaacson, head the investment group and are the co-chairmen of the local franchise, Epic Entertainment. The group paid \$10 million, which includes the cost of the projection equipment, to Imax for a 40-year franchise.

Kaplan said the Jerusalem and Eilat theaters, which will have the standard eight-story high screens, are scheduled to open in September 1999. The Tel Aviv theater is expected to be completed afterwards, and more theaters may be established later elsewhere in the country. They will be the first IMAX theaters in the Middle East.

Kaplan and Isaacson are banking on the fact that the IMAX system movies will be especially popular among all sectors of the Israeli population - including hard-core children, adults, soldiers, and young people with a hunger for adventure - and also will be a major attraction.

"IMAX is the only thing in the movie world that gets a hehsher," said Isaacson. "This country is starved for family entertainment."

"There are also few family attractions in Israel compared with other places in the world," he added. "Tickets to the 45-minute movies cost about \$9 worldwide and the price will be the same in Israel."

Isaacson, a producer and director who worked for the Walt Disney Company, plans to produce an IMAX movie of the Holy Land that is to be featured at the Jerusalem theater.

"The movie will focus on the land, starting from an experience in the Sinai," he said. Each IMAX movie costs about \$5 million to produce. Special patented equipment, including a camera which uses film 10 times larger than the regular 35mm, is used to produce them.

IMAX was launched in 1970 at the Japan Expo and has expanded to 22 countries, with some 160 theaters, 39 of which show both 2-D and 3-D movies. Viewers at the 3-D movies, launched in 1986, are provided with special \$450, high-tech headsets which pick up light signals from the theater and interact with the movie.

"Viewers see fish, sharks, coming right up to them and most jump and squirm in their

seats," said Isaacson.

The theaters are also unique, he said, as "there is no head in front of you as everyone is one rung below. You are in a world of your own."

He said the Israeli theaters, which will have both 2-D and 3-D capability, would show all of the current IMAX hits featured around the world and also would feature movies from the 130-movie IMAX library.

One of the recent big hits is *Everest* and a new offer is *Africa's Elephant Kingdom*.

"IMAX takes you to places you can't go," Kaplan added.

Land has been allocated to the company for the project in Jerusalem, near the government compound, and in Eilat near the airport. Kaplan said that when he approached the Jerusalem Municipality for help in locating a site, he discovered that the land already was zoned exclusively for an IMAX theater, in anticipation that it would be built.

The venue for Tel Aviv has not yet been decided, but it may be located in a shopping mall or other indoor complex with a multiplex theater.

The Eilat theater is to be designed in the form of an Egyptian pyramid and the movies there will be more focused on nature experiences, such as underwater footage, with less emphasis put on educational topics, as will be done in Jerusalem.

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[illegible]

First Union Pkwy	8.625
Fleet Finl Grp	87.312

NYSE		
Amcor	-12.375	-0.875
Ban Square	15.0625	-0.3125
D.S.P. Communications	14.1475	-0.2825
Elect	6.75	+0.25
Elcom	14.1875	-0.2625
First Int'l Fed	14.1875	+0.125
IPC Inc	24.875	+0.125
Super Star	23.875	-0.125
Telecom	25.125	-0.375
Unicom	16.4375	0.00
Unicom	39.375	-0.125
Unicom	29.5	0.00
Source: S&P COMSTOCK	(DATE 2/21/98)	

Gap Inc Del	62
GenCorp	25.082
Gen Am Instent	31.502

LONDON		
Born Advanced	174.5	+0.5
Dynastek Ltd	29.5	+0.5
Pigel	43	-0.5
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	+0
SOURCE: SLP COMSTOCK (DATE 22-JUL-88)		

Gen DataComm	Development 2-24-88	4,562
Genuine Parts	Publishers 2-24-88	35,125
Georgia Pac	Atlanta Development 2-24-88	55,375

LAST CHANGE*		NEW YORK	
Alcoa	42.25	+0.0025	
AMP Inc.	30.8875	-0.3125	
AMP Corp.	72.2125	-0.25	
Amstar	19.5925	-0.05	
About Labs	44.5925	+1.1875	
Acme	16.5925	-1.125	
Auton Life	2.05	-0.05	
Associated Publ.	23.75	-	
Aflac	36.5	-1.375	
Aluminum (HF)	7	-0.05	
Av Prods	39.0625	+0.4375	
American-Culiv B	28.1875	-0.375	
Alkermat	-	-	
Alcan Aluminum	20.4375	-0.0625	
Alican Signal	44.625	-0.1875	
Alcoa	71.875	-0.125	
Amco	49.375	-0.125	
Amnunda Hoes	54.75	+1.0925	
Amer Bonds	34.4375	-0.125	
Amer B Power	10.85	-0.25	
Amer Express	111.825	-0.8125	
Amer Genl Corp	72.5	-	
Amer Graining	48.25	-1.21875	
Amer Home Pr	53.125	+0.4375	
Amer Int'l	24	-3.5	
Amer Intl Inc	105.85	-	
Amer Power Corp	19.925	-0.0625	
Amer Stores	24.25	+0.0025	
Amer T & T	57.825	-0.5675	
Amer Wire Hldg	28.125	-0.125	
Amertech	51.8375	+1.375	
Amnisk Inc	28.25	-1.375	
Germany Fed	19.3075	-	
Glaxo	59.75	-	
Glaxo W Fds	96.875	-	
Goodrich	46.875	-	
Golden Thread	51.8125	-	
Group (WHR)	17.4375	-	
Griffiths	46.8375	-	
Griff At Pac Tea	32.8125	-	
Gr Oriental Mns	3.125	-	
Griff Canada Pac	4.125	-	
Halliburton	40	-	
Harris (BA)	16.25	-	
Harsco	55.5375	-	
Harley Davidson	39.8375	-	
Hawthorn	21.875	-	
Hamlet's Int	51.875	-	
Harris Corp	45.125	-	
Harris	7.09375	-	
Hess	38.75	-	
Hess Indus Pk	11.875	-	
Hood Mfg	56.5	-	
Harc (H)	54.5625	-	
Harc (Hd)	116.125	-	
Harc (Hd) Inc	56.5	-	
Harc (Hd) Corp	22.8125	-	
Hercules	58.675	-	
Hershey Foods	55.375	-	
Hershey Packd	52.375	-	
Hewlett	7.2125	-	
Hill Int'l	17.1875	-	
Hillgr	10.875	-	
Homes	10.875	-	
Homes Int'l	17.875	-	
Honeywell	79.875	-	
Hood Indus	51.25	-	
Hood Indus Inc	28.9375	-	
Houston Inds	28.9375	-	
Hummel	12.6375	-	
IBM	27.6375	-	
Winco Corp	121.45	-	

*In local currencies

FTSE falls 2.3% as poor results expected

Europe

UK stocks declined, with the FTSE 100 Index suffering its worst slide in three months, as Glaxo Wellcome Plc, other drug makers, and financial stocks slipped on concern profits won't meet expectations.

Investors said US drug companies such as Eli Lilly & Co. are a better bet than their British counterparts because they have faster-growing profits. Lilly recorded an 18% rise in net income in the second quarter on better sales of its Prozac antidepressant, while Medeva Plc, a UK rival, reported disappointing earnings.

"Glaxo's earnings growth is mundane relative to the Americans," said Simon Smith, who helps oversee about \$6.56 billion in UK equities at Albert E. Sharp. He owns Glaxo, isn't planning to buy more and has a neutral position in the drug sector.

The benchmark FTSE 100 Index fell 143.1 points, or 2.33%, to 5989.6, led by Glaxo, down 65 pence to 1,800.

SmithKline slipped 26.5p to 718.5. Together, the two wiped 28 points from the index. The broader FTSE 250 Index fell 44.4 points to 5659.3.

Medeva, Britain's fourth-biggest drugmaker, said first-half earnings per share fell 15% to 7.2 pence, hurt by slowing sales of methyphenidate, its best-selling drug and the leading treatment for hyperactive children. Shares fell 19.5p to 152.5.

UK banks also fell on expecta-

tions future profits won't live up to expectations or current share prices. Analysts at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter & Co. yesterday cut the banking industry from "accumulate" to "neutral," while earlier this week Merrill Lynch & Co. warned that second-half bank earnings could be lower than previously expected.

Tel Aviv

Stocks on the TASE were mixed, with Dead Sea Works Ltd., a maker of chemical fertilizers, gaining after it said it would buy a Spanish potash maker.

The Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies added 0.06 percent to 318.28. The Maof Index of 24 largest companies added 0.01% to 331.88, with 10 shares rising, 13 declining and one unchanged. On the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 201.5 million worth of shares were traded. About the same amount of issues dropped as those that rose.

Dead Sea Works gained 1.6% to NIS 8.7 after the chemical company said that a group in which it owns 60% stake will pay \$110 million for Grupo Potassa, a Spanish company that makes more than 1 million tons of potash a year. The Spanish company posted \$145 million in sales last year, almost all of it in France and Germany.

"The knowledge and technology that Dead Sea Works has can make the Spanish company more profitable," said Martin Geifman, an analyst at Zanex Securities.

STOCKS

Maof 331.88 +0.01%
Dow Jones 9129.16 +0.07%
FTSE 5989.6 -2.33%
Nikkei 16293.06 -0.59%

"Having the Spanish company will increase their penetration into European markets."

With the purchase, Dead Sea's potash production will rise by more than 30%, Geifman said. Its parent, Israel Chemicals, gained 0.4% to NIS 29.9.

The gains were offset by a Makhshishim-Agan Industries Ltd., which lost 0.96% to 10.37 after being reiterated "hold" at Sahar Securities.

Asia

Japanese stocks fell for a third day, led by banks such as Sakura Bank Ltd., on expectation Japan's ailing financial institutions will undergo painful restructuring no matter who becomes the nation's new prime minister.

Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi - the front-runner - and Health

Wall Street

Stocks fell sharply again yesterday as the improving profit outlook of recent weeks grew more suspect with disappointing news from Disney and Hewlett-Packard.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 61 points to about 9,128, after a midday deficit of 115 points.

It was the third straight losing session for the blue-chip barometer, which has now fallen 209 points from Friday's record close of 9,337.97.

Broad-market indicators also staged a partially recovery, with the Standard and Poor's 500 bobbing into positive terrain before finishing with a modest loss.

Hewlett-Packard, which warned late Tuesday that it won't meet Wall Street expectations for its current quarter, fell sharply as one of the Dow's bigger decliners. Merck led the Dow's slide for a second day after plunging nearly 10 points on Tuesday.

Disney, another Dow component, suffered only a marginal loss after coming in shy of analyst forecasts with late Tuesday's report on second-quarter profits.

The Standard and Poor's 500 fell 0.99 to 1,164.08, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell 9.39 to 1,969.75.

The NYSE composite index fell 1.86 to 588.81, and the American Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.93 to 733.03. (Agencies)

Yen down as prospective PM seen lackluster

The dollar rose to a one-week high against the yen on expectations Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, the leading contender to become Japan's next head of government, won't act quickly enough to kick-start an economic recovery.

"It seems clear Obuchi is going to become prime minister, and that's not looked upon as favorable by the market," said Bill Bertha, manager of foreign exchange at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. "That's what lifting the dollar today."

The dollar climbed as high as 140.98 yen, its strongest since July 15, from 140.33 Tuesday in New York. The US currency rose to 179.15 marks from 178.64 after a

German producer price report showed inflation is in check, suggesting the Bundesbank won't raise interest rates soon.

Obuchi, 61, looks set to win tomorrow's election for the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. So far, he has locked up as many as 185 of the 207 votes needed to be elected, according to polls by the Yomiuri, Mainichi and other newspapers. The party leader will become prime minister because the LDP controls the lower house of parliament.

Obuchi is considered less likely to push for economic reform - particularly of Japan's crippled banking system - than his opponents, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, 72,

CURRENCIES	
Dollar (US\$)	140.98
Yen (¥)	179.15
Mark (DM)	178.64
Swiss (Sfr)	1.75
British (£)	1.78
French (F)	166.35
Italian (Lira)	1,936
Spanish (Pta)	166.35
Portuguese (Escudo)	200.48
Chinese (Yuan)	8.27
Japanese (Yen)	140.98
South African (Rand)	10.00
Israeli (Sheqel)	1.75
Indian (Rupee)	46.46
Pakistani (Rupee)	100.00
Sri Lankan (Rupee)	100.00
Thai (Baht)	50.00
Vietnamese (Dong)	200.00
Philippine (Peso)	50.00
Indonesian (Rupiah)	1,000.00
Singapore (Dollar)	1.00
Malaysian (Ringgit)	2.00
Brunei (Dollar)	1.00
Myanmar (Kyat)	100.00
Burmese (Kyat)	100.00
Laotian (Kip)	100.00
Cambodian (Riel)	100.00
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Cubs rookie outduels Cy Young winner

Kerry Wood shuts out Maddux, Braves 3-0; Griffey pounds 40th

ATLANTA (AP) — Kerry Wood had 11 strikeouts in 7 1/2 shutout innings, outdueling Greg Maddux as the Chicago Cubs defeated the Atlanta Braves 3-0 Tuesday night.

With a selfless crowd watching one of the best pitching matchups of the season, the 21-year-old Wood gave up five hits and twice escaped trouble with strikeouts to defeat Maddux, a four-time Cy Young Award winner.

Mickey Morandini had a two-out, run-scoring single in the third, and the Cubs added two more runs in the fourth on Jose Hernandez's RBI grounder and a squeeze bunt by former Atlanta shortstop Jeff Blauser.

But the night belonged to Wood (9-5), who reached double-figure strikeouts for the sixth time in 18 major-league starts.

Maddux (13-4) lost for the first

time to his former team. He entered the game with a 7-0 career record and 1.51 ERA against the Cubs.

Phillies 3, Expos 2
Mark Pomeroy pitched a four-hitter as visiting Philadelphia won its third straight.

Brewers 6, Marlins 4
Mark Loretta snapped a tie with an RBI double in the top of the ninth.

Mets 4, Pirates 0
Rick Reed pitched eight shutout innings and drove in a run as host New York ended Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak.

Rodgers 5, Astros 0
Mark Brown pitched five no-hit innings in his major league debut and finished with a four-hitter for the visitors.

Padres 6, Cardinals 3
Kevin Brown held Mark

McGwire hitless and won his ninth straight decision as host San Diego gained a split of the two-game series.

Dodgers 4, Reds 2
Ismael Valdes won consecutive starts for the first time since last August and rookie Adrian Beltré hit a two-run homer as Los Angeles won at home.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 3
Devon White's bases-loaded single capped a three-run rally in the seventh inning that lifted Arizona to an away win.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Mariners 8, Devil Rays 3
Ken Griffey Jr. hit his AL-leading 40th home run and Russ Davis drove in four runs with a double and homer as Seattle Mariners won on the road.

Rangers 15, Royals 5
Juan Gonzalez homered twice

and drove in five runs, increasing his major league-leading RBI total to 110, and visiting Texas hit a season-high six homers.

Orioles 7, Athletics 1
Rafael Palmeiro hit his 30th homer and Scott Erickson pitched a six-hitter for his AL-high seventh complete game as host Baltimore won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Yankees 5, Tigers 1
David Cone became the first 14-game winner in the majors and remained unbeaten at home.

White Sox 6, Blue Jays 3
Albert Belle went 4-for-5 with his 30th homer of the season and 13th in July, and Toronto's poor

defense led to three unearned runs. Red Sox 10, Indians 7 (1st). Jeff Branson's tiebreaking homer off Tim Wakefield helped give host Cleveland a split in the rain-shortened second game of a day-night doubleheader.

Pedro Martinez got his 13th victory in the day game for Boston.

The night game was finally called at 12:48 a.m. after a second rain delay.

Twins 4, Angels 2
Paul Molitor moved into a tie for 10th place on the career hit list with three hits, including the go-ahead two-run double in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Chinese gymnast paralyzed

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — For every gymnast, the worst fear is losing control during their gravity-defying routines as they spin and somersault through the air.

That worst fear became reality for 17-year-old Sang Lan during warmups for the women's vault competition at the Goodwill Games. The Chinese gymnast remained paralyzed yesterday after landing on her head as she practiced for the competition.

Sang was attempting a forward vault Tuesday night when she tumbled, landing on the floor of the Nassau Coliseum head-first.

She was removed on a stretcher to the Nassau County Medical Center where Dr. Brock Schnebel, chief medical officer of the games, evaluated her injury.

Schnebel said X-rays and a CAT scan showed Sang with a fractured dislocation of the sixth and seventh cervical vertebrae. "This has resulted in an injury to her spinal cord," the doctor said.

Schnebel said Sang was unable to move her legs and had only minimal motion of her arms.

"She cannot feel from her mid-chest down," he said. "This is consistent with a spinal cord injury at the C-6, C-7 (sixth and seventh vertebrae)."

At the track, Michael Johnson showed he's still the boss, Maurice Greene left Donovan Bailey almost speechless and one of track's most enduring stars showed he might at last be finished.

Johnson, the 1996 Olympic 200 and 400 champion, erased any thoughts that his career might be on a downhill slide, winning the 400 in a meet-record 43.76 seconds.

Johnson's time was the 12th-fastest in history — he holds nine of the best — and the fastest in the world since he ran 43.75 at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1997.

Greene, who has been badly-mouthed by Bailey since winning last year's 100-meter world championship, quieted the Canadian by racing to victory in 9.96. Bailey appeared to shut down with 80



Maurice Greene finishes first in the 100m dash.

meters left and finished seventh at 10.30, far off his world record of 9.84.

Sergei Bubka, the greatest pole-vaulter in history, gave more signs that the end of his career is near.

The 34-year-old Ukrainian, who has set the world record 35 times and is the only one to clear 20 feet (6.1 meters), no-heighted for the second time in three meets. On his final try at 18 feet, 8 1/2 inches (5.70m), the 90-second time limit ran out and Bubka did not even make an attempt at the bar.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the 36-year-old world record-holder in the heptathlon who has not completed a multi-event since the 1996 Olympic trials, looked woefully out of shape at the start of her final heptathlon. The two-time Olympic gold medalist finished her first four events in second place with 3,833 points, 34 behind leader DeDee Nathan.

The US basketball team advanced to the semis with a 106-75 victory over Brazil. The US plays Lithuania in the medal round today. Australia also advanced with an 82-64 victory over Lithuania. It was Lithuania's first loss.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

1st Boston	010 000 120-10 12 4
2nd Cleveland	010 001 121-7 12 0
3rd Philadelphia	010 000 120-10 12 4
4th Baltimore	010 000 120-10 12 4
5th Toronto	010 000 120-10 12 4
6th Detroit	010 000 120-10 12 4
7th Tampa Bay	010 000 120-10 12 4
8th New York	010 000 120-10 12 4
9th Seattle	010 000 120-10 12 4
10th Los Angeles	010 000 120-10 12 4
11th Texas	010 000 120-10 12 4
12th Oakland	010 000 120-10 12 4
13th Minnesota	010 000 120-10 12 4
14th Kansas City	010 000 120-10 12 4
15th Chicago	010 000 120-10 12 4
16th St. Louis	010 000 120-10 12 4
17th Houston	010 000 120-10 12 4
18th San Diego	010 000 120-10 12 4
19th Milwaukee	010 000 120-10 12 4
20th Pittsburgh	010 000 120-10 12 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1st Philadelphia	010 000 120-10 12 4
2nd St. Louis	010 000 120-10 12 4
3rd Atlanta	010 000 120-10 12 4
4th Cincinnati	010 000 120-10 12 4
5th Pittsburgh	010 000 120-10 12 4
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7th San Diego	010 000 120-10 12 4
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11th Colorado	010 000 120-10 12 4
12th Arizona	010 000 120-10 12 4
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15th Cincinnati	010 000 120-10 12 4
16th St. Louis	010 000 120-10 12 4
17th Atlanta	010 000 120-10 12 4
18th Pittsburgh	010 000 120-10 12 4
19th New York	010 000 120-10 12 4
20th San Diego	010 000 120-10 12 4

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
1st New York	70	25	.737	
2nd Boston	57	41	.583	14 1/2
3rd Toronto	58	51	.530	23 1/2
4th Baltimore	49	51	.490	23 1/2
5th Tampa Bay	34	62	.357	35 1/2
6th Cleveland	54	43	.560	
7th Minnesota	45	53	.459	10 1/2
8th Chicago	44	56	.440	12 1/2
9th Kansas City	43	55	.439	12 1/2
10th Detroit	42	56	.429	13 1/2
11th Texas	5	44	.556	
12th Anaheim	53	45	.541	1 1/2
13th Oakland	46	52	.469	8 1/2
14th Seattle	46	54	.460	9 1/2

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
1st Atlanta	65	35	.650	
2nd Philadelphia	51	46	.526	12 1/2
3rd New York	49	46	.516	13 1/2
4th Montreal	39	60	.396	23 1/2
5th Florida	37	62	.374	27 1/2
6th Houston	59	40	.596	
7th Chicago	55	44	.556	4
8th Milwaukee	50	48	.510	8 1/2
9th St. Louis	46	53	.465	13
10th Pittsburgh	46	54	.460	13 1/2
11th Cincinnati	45	55	.450	14 1/2
12th San Diego	65	35	.650	
13th San Francisco	54	46	.540	11
14th Los Angeles	51	49	.510	14
15th Colorado	42	58	.420	23
16th Arizona	36	63	.364	28 1/2

CLASSIFIEDS

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Single Weekday - NIS 146.25 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 14.62.

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TWO FRIDAYS - NIS 386.10 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 38.61.

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY - NIS 321.60 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 32.16.

WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 468 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 46.80.

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VEHICLES

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Expiry date: _____ ID No. _____
Please send receipt _____ Signature: _____
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CRITICS' CHOICE

EVENT

ADINA HOFFMAN

The Givatayim Theater opens tonight on Derech Hashalom, with a special series of events, including a reading by Israeli and Palestinian poets and the screening of several films whose subject is, loosely, peace. Of special historical note is *Abraham's Odyssey* (at 7:30), the first-ever Israeli-Jordanian co-production, a modern look at the lands where the patriarch, father of both Moslems and Jews, journeyed on his way from Ur to Canaan. The Israel Film Service and Jordan's Prime Time Productions joined forces to make the movie, which isn't great or even good, but is quite admirable in its intentions and which will, one hopes, pave the way for more sophisticated joint efforts in the future. Two other movies to be screened tonight, Micha Shagrir's *Stitches on the Seam* (10) and Lena Chaplin's *No Beginning No End* (11:00) are both compelling, thoughtful and sometimes sad looks at the peace process as it unfolds (or doesn't) on the ground. The latter, especially, is a documentary of unusual melancholy and grace, a gently rendered portrait of the Arab-Israeli actor Mohammad Bakri and his family, understandably frustrated people of remarkable good humor whose self-declared "optimism" (in novelist Emile Habibi's term) will be familiar to many here, in all its bittersweet contradiction.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

There are only two more opportunities to hear Zubin Mehta lead his Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra in Mahler's Third Symphony tonight at 8:30 at the Haifa Congress Center, and Saturday at 9 p.m. at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium.

There are five different concerts to enjoy at the opening weekend of the Kol Israel Upper Galilee Days at Kfar Blum. Today at 9 there is a special Gershwin tribute at the Ramat Hagolan wineries. The festival's official opening concert (tomorrow at 9 p.m.) features music by Andre Hajdu, Debussy and Brahms and among the Saturday highlights is the premiere of two song cycles for harp and voice by Ami Ma'ayani at 9 p.m.



'Abraham's Odyssey' is the first-ever Israeli-Jordanian movie co-production.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

The Bible Lands Museum summer jazz festival is held in its pretty garden with the first drink on the house. Shai Kalman and his quartet entertain Saturday from 9:30 p.m. The museum opens at 9 p.m.

TELEVISION

HELEN KAYE

It's vacation time and the Israeli/Palestinian produced *Sesame Street* series has rallied to the occasion with a three-part parody of the teen musical *Grease*. Comedienne Tzippi Shavit interacts with the musical's Muppet-type heroes. Today on Channel 2 at 2:30 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:40 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

6:00 Animation
10:10 Hot Shots
10:30 Superhero Haven
11:00 Time Exposure
11:25 Hot Science
11:30 Nature
12:00 Vacation Time
12:45 Animation
14:00 Star Trek Deep
16:15 Voyage through the Solar System

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 X-Men
15:52 Zap - Vacation
16:00 Cinema on Thursday: Stills and Stars
16:50 New Evening
17:34 Stills and Stars - 19:15 News in English
18:10 Time for Language
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Encounter
19:00 News
19:30 NEWS PROGRAMS

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 A Moment in Life
19:35 Comedy
20:00 Profiles
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:25 Old Jaffa Nights
22:40 You Can't Be Too Cool
23:30 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:45 On the Edge of the Sea
6:00 Animation
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:40 News
6:55 Fish Man, Poor Man
7:00 Scooby Doo
11:16 Dumb and Dumber
11:40 Encanto: The Movie
12:25 Geronimo and the Captain
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Calculated Risk
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Major Dad
15:30 News
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:30 Different Driving
17:30 First Wives Club
17:30 First Prince of Bel-Air
18:00 Danielle Steel
18:30 Buffy Vampire Slayer
20:00 News
20:30 Shmash
21:00 News
21:45 City Hall (1995) - a deputy mayor searches for the truth after a police shoot out with Al Pacino and John Cusack
00:00 News
00:10 Screen Test
00:30 A Real Story
1:44 Storyline Festival
2:41 New York Under Cover
3:11 Concert

CHANNEL 3

7:00 ETV
8:00 Comedy
8:00 One Life to Live (pt)
8:15 The Young and the Restless (pt)
8:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
14:25 The Young and the Restless (pt)
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:25 The Young and the Restless (pt)
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
18:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
19:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
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22:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
22:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
23:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
23:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
24:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)

CHANNEL 5 (51)

15:30 Pity Koran
15:45 Classic animation
16:30 Australian Birds
16:30 Drawing in Blue
16:30 Treasure Seekers
18:00 Burnt Bridge
18:00 Le Journal

JORDAN TV (51)

(unconfirmed)
15:30 Pity Koran
15:45 Classic animation
16:30 Australian Birds
16:30 Drawing in Blue
16:30 Treasure Seekers
18:00 Burnt Bridge
18:00 Le Journal

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Parasol
(Hebrew, 1973) - the story

CABLE

MIDDLE EAST TV (2427)

14:30 Body Electric
14:30 West Telling
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Popeye
17:45 South the Hedgehog
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:30 Takes Two to Love
19:00 The World of Entertainment
19:30 World News Tonight
20:00 World News Tonight
20:25 Movie Call of the Wild
22:05 Homicide
22:30 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 X-Men
15:52 Zap - Vacation
16:00 Cinema on Thursday: Stills and Stars
16:50 New Evening
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22:40 You Can't Be Too Cool
23:30 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:45 On the Edge of the Sea
6:00 Animation
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:40 News
6:55 Fish Man, Poor Man
7:00 Scooby Doo
11:16 Dumb and Dumber
11:40 Encanto: The Movie
12:25 Geronimo and the Captain
13:00 My Secret Identity
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24:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)

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15:45 Classic animation
16:30 Australian Birds
16:30 Drawing in Blue
16:30 Treasure Seekers
18:00 Burnt Bridge
18:00 Le Journal

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Parasol
(Hebrew, 1973) - the story

CABLE

MIDDLE EAST TV (2427)

14:30 Body Electric
14:30 West Telling
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Popeye
17:45 South the Hedgehog
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:30 Takes Two to Love
19:00 The World of Entertainment
19:30 World News Tonight
20:00 World News Tonight
20:25 Movie Call of the Wild
22:05 Homicide
22:30 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 X-Men
15:52 Zap - Vacation
16:00 Cinema on Thursday: Stills and Stars
16:50 New Evening
17:34 Stills and Stars - 19:15 News in English
18:10 Time for Language
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Encounter
19:00 News
19:30 NEWS PROGRAMS

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 A Moment in Life
19:35 Comedy
20:00 Profiles
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:25 Old Jaffa Nights
22:40 You Can't Be Too Cool
23:30 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:45 On the Edge of the Sea
6:00 Animation
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:40 News
6:55 Fish Man, Poor Man
7:00 Scooby Doo
11:16 Dumb and Dumber
11:40 Encanto: The Movie
12:25 Geronimo and the Captain
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Calculated Risk
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Major Dad
15:30 News
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:30 Different Driving
17:30 First Wives Club
17:30 First Prince of Bel-Air
18:00 Danielle Steel
18:30 Buffy Vampire Slayer
20:00 News
20:30 Shmash
21:00 News
21:45 City Hall (1995) - a deputy mayor searches for the truth after a police shoot out with Al Pacino and John Cusack
00:00 News
00:10 Screen Test
00:30 A Real Story
1:44 Storyline Festival
2:41 New York Under Cover
3:11 Concert

CHANNEL 3

7:00 ETV
8:00 Comedy
8:00 One Life to Live (pt)
8:15 The Young and the Restless (pt)
8:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
14:25 The Young and the Restless (pt)
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:25 The Young and the Restless (pt)
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
18:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
19:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
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22:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
23:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
23:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
24:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)

CHANNEL 5 (51)

15:30 Pity Koran
15:45 Classic animation
16:30 Australian Birds
16:30 Drawing in Blue
16:30 Treasure Seekers
18:00 Burnt Bridge
18:00 Le Journal

JORDAN TV (51)

(unconfirmed)
15:30 Pity Koran
15:45 Classic animation
16:30 Australian Birds
16:30 Drawing in Blue
16:30 Treasure Seekers
18:00 Burnt Bridge
18:00 Le Journal

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Parasol
(Hebrew, 1973) - the story

PRIME TIME TV

A Moment in Life	News	Beverly Hills 90210	Rampage	Family Matters	Beyond 2000
News	Shmash	Hercules	Invasion of Privacy	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	Wild Film
Are You Being Served?	Set Van	Kona, the Warrior Princess	100 World News	Beverly Hills 90210	A Decade in Transition
Old Jaffa Nights	City Hall	Suddenly Susan	Citizen X	Journey Into Fear	Eleanor Roosevelt
You Can't Be Too Careful		Seinfeld			Walking on Water
		Ricki Lake			

Bel Air 20:40 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210
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Inside

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

'Pink Floyd' to rock Bulls

CHICAGO (AP) — In a move that could push Michael Jordan to retire, the Chicago Bulls have chosen Iowa State University's Tim Floyd as their new head coach.

"The announcement will be made Thursday," a Bulls source said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Bulls spokesman Tim Hallam said he could not confirm that Floyd was hired to succeed Phil Jackson.

Jordan has made no secret of his unwillingness to play for the 44-year-old Floyd, who has no NBA coaching experience and compiled a 243-130 career record with five NCAA tournament appearances. He has been at Iowa State for four years and his team went 12-18 last season — his only losing season in 12 as a college coach.

In his most recent public comments, Jordan reiterated that he won't play for any coach but Jackson, who left at the end of the season after the team won its sixth championship.

Jordan said he wouldn't announce a decision on his future with the Bulls until after a labor dispute with the NBA ends.

He has ridiculed Floyd by calling him "Pink" — as in the rock group Pink Floyd. Dennis Rodman also has called the possible hiring of Floyd "a joke."

Policy quits 49ers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Carmen Policy resigned as the San Francisco 49ers' president, a stunning move that could signal Eddie DeBartolo is about to regain control of the club he co-owns with his sister.

Betar cruise past Faroe Islanders

Salloi's hat-trick sets national champs in strong position in European Champions' Cup action

By DEREK FATTAL

Betar Jerusalem opened the new season in winning fashion last night at Teddy Stadium with a 4-1 victory over the Faroe Islands B.36 Torshavn in the first preliminary round of the European Champions' Cup. Hungarian striker Stefan Salloi proved to be in deadly form, netting a hat-trick against the islanders' weak defense, to the delight of a surprisingly large summer crowd of over 11,000.

The result leaves the Jerusalemites in a commanding position ahead of next Monday's return leg, and Dror Kashtan's men must now be regarded as clear favorites to advance to the next preliminary round against Lisbon's Benfica.

Betar's new signing Ofer Shitrit got off to a dream start hitting the back of the net in just the second minute. Torshavn's defense literally evaporated following a downfield kick from Itzik Kornfein and Shitrit pounced into the opening to put Betar ahead.

Seven minutes later, Salloi took his first of three, taking advantage of another defensive mix-up.

Instead of tightening the defense, however, the home side relaxed, and it was not until injury time in the first half that the Betar fans were cheering again when Salloi gleefully side-tapped the ball home after Torshavn goalkeeper Egin Hognesen had saved valiantly from Istvan Hamar.

Despite some useful touches by the debuting Ilan Bechar, Betar's other new signings failed to impress. Shitrit quickly faded and was guilty of an unbelievable miss in front of an open goal in the 50th minute. Assi Domb looked distinctly uncomfortable in central defense as the visitors began to mount some useful attacks.

Tomislav Sivic came close with three attempts before an illegal challenge in the box by Domb in the 73rd minute led to John Petersen scoring from the penalty spot to make the scoreline 3-1.

That ripe set the hosts back on the warpath, and Salloi materialized once again amidst further confusion in the B.36 back line to stab the ball into goal for his third contribution of the night in the 78th minute.

Benfica manager Graham Souness was in the stands yesterday and despite the scoreline, will have seen little to lose sleep over.

While Betar busy themselves with the return match against B.36, Benfica have two weeks of solid action planned which will see them play competitive friendlies against Newcastle United, Borussia Mochengladbach and Lazio.



ONE ON ONE — Betar Jerusalem's Istvan Hamar (l) challenges Faroe Islands' Ronnie Samuelson for the ball.

(Brian Hendler)

With a place in the lucrative Champions' League at stake, Souness clearly means business, and Betar fans — including Mr. Ron Landau — should take note.

Results of European Cup first qualifying round, first leg matches played yesterday:

In Belgrade: Obilic Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 2, Vestmannaeyja (Iceland) 0. Scorers: Zivoin Juskic 18, Nenad Grozdic 65. Halftime 1-0; Attendance: 1,500. In Krato: Sileks Krato (Macedonia) 0, Club Bruges (Belgium) 0. Attendance: 3,500.

In Tbilisi: Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) 1, Vilaznia Shkoder (Albania) 0. Scorers: Levon Khomeriki 53. Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 9,000. Red card: Georgy Slava (Vilaznia) 69.

In Chisinau: Zimbru Chisinau (Moldova) 1, Ujpest (Hungary) 0. Scorers: Konstantin Kulik 10pen. Halftime: 1-0; Attendance: 8,000.

In Lodz: LKS Lodz (Poland) 4, Kypaz Giandza (Azerbaijan) 1. Scorers: LKS Lodz — Tomasz Cebula 16, Mirosław Trzeciak 50pen, 76pen, Tomasz Wieszczycki 73. Kypaz — Imamiar Suleymanov 83. Halftime 1-0; Attendance: 2,000.

In Helsinki: HJK Helsinki 2, FC Yerevan (Armenia) 0. Scorers: Jarkko Wiss 50, Shefki Kuci 85. Halftime 0-0; Attendance: 2,300.

In Kiev: Dynamo Kiev 8, Barry Town (Wales) 0. Scorers: Serhiy Rebrov 9, 16, 37, 82, Andriy Shevchenko 33, 59, Alexei Gerasimenko 48, Valentin Belkevich 65. Halftime: 4-0; Attendance: 18,000.

In Antwerp (played Tuesday): Germinal Ekeren (Belgium) 4, Sarajevo (Bosnia) 1. In Yerevan: Shirak Gyumri (Armenia) 0, Malmo FF (Sweden) 2. In Poti: Kolkheti 1913 (Georgia) 0, Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 4. In Murska Sobota: Mura Murska Sobota (Slovenia) 6, Daugava Riga (Latvia) 1.

2002 World Cup may be rescheduled

SEOUL (AP) — The 2002 World Cup may have to be rescheduled to avoid the usual June-July rainy season in Japan and South Korea, South Korea's top soccer official said yesterday.

The World Cup finals have traditionally been held in June and July, avoiding pro league schedules in Europe and South America. But Japan and South Korea think that schedule should be changed in 2002 to avoid the rains.

Japan and South Korea are co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup, soccer's first premier event to be held in Asia.

"The rescheduling is an urgent matter that should be decided on by the end of this year at the latest," Chung Moon-joon, head of the (South) Korean Football Association, said at a luncheon meeting with local journalists.

Chung, a vice president representing Asia in soccer's governing body, FIFA, suggested that the 2002 World Cup finals be rescheduled for September.

He noted that the 1998 Summer Olympics in Seoul were held in September and that the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo were staged in October.

When the issue was unofficially raised at a FIFA executive meeting in Paris in June, Chung said he understood that most members showed support for the suggested rescheduling.

"This year, as usual, Japan and South Korea had much rain during the World Cup in France," he said. This year's World Cup was held from June 10 to July 12.

Chung said changing the schedule will not be easy, because it will require agreement from all major national soccer committees and clubs in Europe and South America, which virtually control FIFA.

Chung also said he still wants North Korea to share two or three of the 32 World Cup matches South Korea will stage in 2002. The other 32 matches will be played in Japan.

North Korea so far has taken no official stand on the proposed sharing, suggested by South Korea and endorsed by FIFA last year.



MELLOW YELLOW — Jan Ullrich celebrates retaining the yellow jersey.

(Reuters)

Pantani takes 11th stage

PLATEAU DE BEILLE (AP) — Defending champion Jan Ullrich held onto the lead in the Tour de France yesterday despite the efforts of Marco Pantani to cut deeply into the gap on a hot day in the mountains.

Pantani took the 11th stage, once again breaking away from the Ullrich group up the final climb. Yesterday's stage had five major climbs including the finish up 1,750 meters in the Pyrenees.

Roland Meier of Switzerland built up a lead of more than five minutes on the pack entering the final climb. But Meier was trailing Ullrich by more than five minutes in the overall standings.

entering the day. So Ullrich's Telekom team maintained a pace to keep Meier within that distance and were ready to increase the pace if needed.

Ullrich had a flat with about 20 kilometers left in the stage and was helped back to the pack with his teammates.

Once back, Ullrich worked his way through and then started increasing the pace to catch the Meier.

American Bobby Julich now trails Ullrich by 1 minute 11 seconds in the overall standings. Pantani and Laurent Jalabert of France are just over three minutes back.

Dino Zoff appointed Italy national coach

ROME (Reuters) — Dino Zoff, the legendary captain of Italy's 1982 World Cup triumph, was named coach of the national side yesterday following the resignation of Cesare Maldini, the Italian soccer federation said in a statement.

Zoff signed a contract until July 31, 2002, it added. The 56-year-old Lazio president, former national goalkeeper and most capped player in Italian soccer history had been widely tipped for the job.

The federation said the change-over would officially take place next Tuesday. Maldini took over less than two years ago but his days as coach were numbered after Italy's lackluster World Cup performance in which they crashed out to eventual winners France in the quarter-finals.

England drop Croft from fourth Test with South Africa

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Robert Croft — a hero when he batted gamely to salvage a draw for England in the third cricket Test against South Africa — was axed yesterday from the England team for the fourth Test.

England, trailing 1-0 in the five match series, will only use one spinner for the Trent Bridge Test starting today and Croft's inability to take wickets this series has cost him his place.

In search of some inspiration, England selectors selected leg spinner Ian Salisbury among a host of new and recalled players in a bid to provide bowling breakthroughs and batting strength.

Batsman Graeme Hick has been recalled, while left-arm medium pace bowler Alan Mullally and big-hitting Lancashire all-rounder Andrew Flintoff have also been added to the England team.

South Africa have their share of injury concerns with Lance Klusener undergoing surgery in Pretoria on the ankle injury he sustained during the third Test at Old Trafford and fast bowler Makhaya Ntini nursing an injury.

However, Shaun Pollock has recovered from the quadriceps strain which ruled him out of the third Test and will add some fire power to the Proteas batting and bowling attack.

South Africa is expected to wait until just before the toss today to decide on the fitness of Makhaya Ntini.

AIR CANADA

Noon lunch at Fisherman's Wharf?

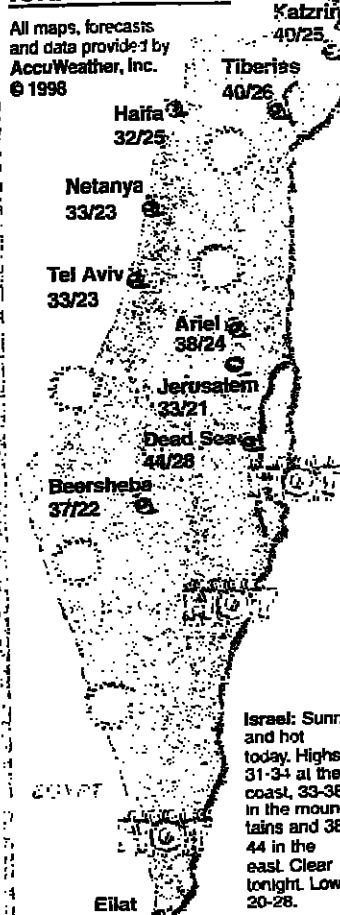
AIR CANADA will get you there in time

Lv-TLV 1:30 a.m. Arr-SF 11:30 a.m. same day

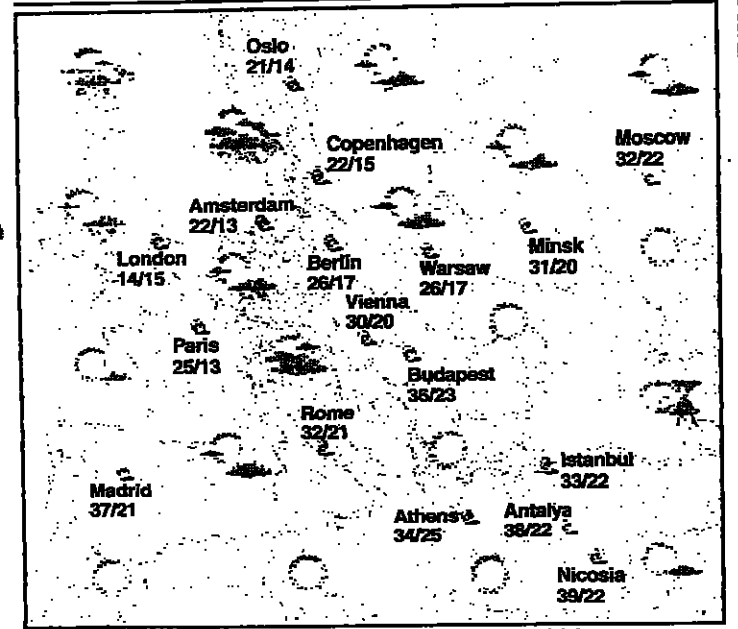
THE WEATHER

http://www.accuweather.com

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1998



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Weather (W): sunny, pc: partly cloudy, c: cloudy, sh: showers, t: thunderstorms, r: rain, s: snow, b: blizzards, f: fog.

ISRAEL CITIES				INTERNATIONAL CITIES			
City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind
Ariel	38/24	24/15	SE 10	Amsterdam	22/13	13/5	SE 10
Beersheba	37/22	22/11	SE 10	Beijing	29/17	17/5	SE 10
Dead Sea	44/28	28/11	SE 10	Berlin	29/17	17/5	SE 10
Eilat	43/28	28/11	SE 10	Bombay	31/20	20/10	SE 10
Haifa	32/25	25/15	SE 10	Buenos Aires	31/20	20/10	SE 10
Jerusalem	32/21	21/11	SE 10	Calgary	28/12	12/5	SE 10
Netanya	33/23	23/13	SE 10	Chicago	28/12	12/5	SE 10
Tel Aviv	33/23	23/13	SE 10	Frankfurt	27/18	18/5	SE 10
Tiberias	40/24	24/14	SE 10	Hong Kong	29/17	17/5	SE 10
				London	18/1	1/5	SE 10

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

